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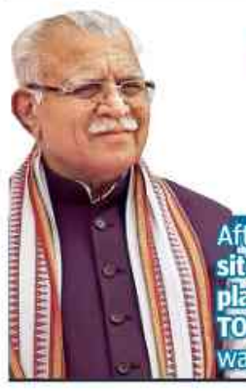

After suspension of Indus Water Treaty with Pak, **sites being identified in J&K for new power plants, Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar tells TOI.** Proposals also being considered to divert water to Punjab, Raj, Haryana, UP & Delhi, P 15

FM **Nirmala Sitharaman announces plan to set up ₹1 lakh crore Economic Stabilisation Fund** aimed at providing fiscal headroom to respond to unanticipated global challenges, P 19

Shantanu Narayen, who served as Adobe CEO for 18 years and turned its creative tools into a subscription service, to resign amid scepticism about the company's ability to thrive in AI era, P 17

SRH faces social media backlash after Hundred franchise Sunrisers Leeds signs Pak spinner Abrar Ahmed for ₹2.3cr; Sunrisers Leeds X handle suspended. BCCI says our domain limited to IPL, P 21

After 5 years, Centre scraps IDBI sale move

After five years, the Centre has called off the disinvestment of IDBI Bank after the bids received found to be lower than the reserve price. A formal decision to stop the process will have to be approved by the Union cabinet. The development will come as a blow to govt's disinvestment target, given that it had budgeted to mop up close to Rs 80,000 crore in the next fiscal. P19

PM hands over land ownership certs to Assam tea workers

PM Modi handed out land ownership certificates to Assam tea garden workers on Friday as he kicked off projects worth Rs 24,000 crore in the poll-bound state. The certificates mark the first such move for workers since their forefathers were brought by British planters from Chotanagpur plateau nearly two centuries ago. TNN

Oppn notices in LS, RS for CEC removal

Just before EC announces the schedule for polls in TN, Kerala, Bengal, Assam and Puducherry, the opposition moved Parliament on Friday for the removal of Gyanesh Kumar as CEC. The petitions have seven charges against Kumar. P 8

In Maha bill, 7-yr jail for forced conversion

Maharashtra introduced a bill with stringent provisions to prevent conversions through coercion, fraud or marriage if it involves inducement, coercion or deceit. The bill sets a 7-year jail term for "unlawful conversions on the pretext of marriage". P 8

GBA carves city into 50 divisions

Greater Bengaluru Authority has created 50 divisions and 150 sub-divisions across the city to further streamline administration, following the restructuring of civic governance under the Greater Bengaluru Administration Act, 2024. P 4

Tehran: Will allow Indian ships to pass; Modi says Iran a friend

Reports: 2 Ships Carrying Gas Crossed Strait

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New Delhi: In his phone conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian late Thursday, PM Modi stressed that India is Iran's friend and that his govt will do all it can to advance diplomacy as escalation is not in anyone's interest. This is the closest India has come to expressing solidarity with Tehran, which said Friday it would allow Indian ships safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, after the war broke out with US-Israel attacks and Iranian reprisals.

FULL COVERAGE
PAGES 4, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19

The Iranian president appreciated India's "balanced and constructive position" on international issues and its efforts to reduce tensions.

Iranian ambassador Mohammad Fathali answered in the affirmative when asked if Tehran would let India-flagged ships cross the Strait. "Yes, because India is our friend. You will see it within 2-3 hours. We believe India and Iran share common interests in the region," Fathali said Friday evening. Twenty-eight Indian ships are stranded in the Persian Gulf because of the Iranian blockade of the Strait.

There were reports late Friday that Iran had allowed two India-flagged ships carrying gas to cross the Strait.

▶Calls for Brics role, P 16

FRIDAY RALLY IN TEHRAN TARGETED

- **Six crew members aboard a US refuelling aircraft** killed after it crashed over western Iraq on Thursday
- India facilitated return of nearly **100 members of the crew of Iranian ship IRIS Lavan**, which docked at Kochi on March 4, say sources
- **Explosion rocks an area of Tehran where senior govt officials joined thousands** on Friday for an annual rally to support Palestinians. No immediate reports of casualties
- Sensex **drops 1,471 pts** or 1.9% to settle at 74,564.

Photo: NYT

Smoke continues to billow in a Beirut neighbourhood 24 hours after an Israeli strike on Thursday

Investors have lost ₹34L crore in 2 weeks of West Asia war

- **Rupee closes at 92.46** after touching a record low of 92.48 against dollar

Drone strike in Oman takes Indian toll to 5

New Delhi: Two Indian nationals were killed and 10 others injured in a drone strike in an industrial area in Oman's Sohar province Friday, taking the total number of Indian casualties in the ongoing war in West Asia to five.

Oman News Agency reported that two drones crashed in Sohar, one striking the Al-Awahi industrial area, resulting in the deaths of two expatriates and several injuries, and the other crashing in an open area, causing no damage.

Joint secretary (Gulf) in external affairs ministry, Aseem Mahajan, confirmed the killings. "We express our deepest condolences... Of the 11 injured, 10 are Indians. Five have been discharged and the others are receiving treatment in local hospitals," he said.

▶1.5L back home, P 16

Will hit Iran very hard, says Trump, eases sanctions on Russian oil

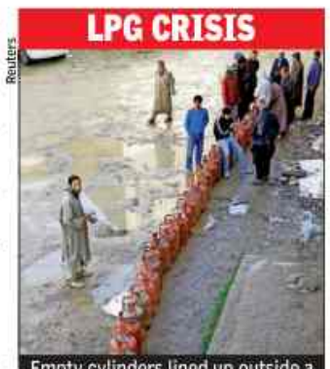
President Donald Trump said the US was going to be hitting Iran "very hard over the next week", shortly after issuing a partial 30-day waiver for purchases of sanctioned Russian oil, hoping to ease prices fuelled by the US-Israeli war on Iran. While Moscow welcomed the move, Kyiv and its allies were angry.

Prices have been whipsawing on Trump's changing comments on the likely duration of the war, which has prompted Iran to attack vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump has previously said the war is "complete", and also promised to guarantee the safety of vessels in the Strait. In a Fox News interview aired Friday, Trump said the US would escort shipping there "if we needed to". Benchmark Brent crude eased about 0.6% to around $99.80, still up almost 40% since the start of the conflict. P 17

LPG CRISIS

Reuters



Empty cylinders lined up outside a gas agency in Magam town, J&K

- Bangalore Apartments' Federation asks residents to **use induction cooktops for boiling & everyday cooking** | P 4
- Govt urges **60L households that have PNG** supply available to **take connections**, ease pressure on LPG | P 16
- **IndiGo adds fuel charge ranging from ₹425 to ₹2,300** from March 14, cites rise in aviation fuel prices | P 15
- **Railway Board permits use of flameless cooking** systems in pantry cars | P 15
- **Man, 60, dies of cardiac arrest** after queueing up for LPG for 3 hrs in Barnala | P 16

More eateries scale down; K'taka says no commercial LPG supply for 7-10 days

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Bengaluru: Karnataka govt Friday ruled out supplying commercial LPG cylinders to hotels in the state for the next 7-10 days, dashing restaurants' hopes of an early return to full-scale operations.

At least 30% of hotels across the state have downed shutters and 50% of small eateries in Bengaluru have suspended or trimmed their operations over gas shortage.

▶Min: Karnataka will host stranded int'l tourists, P 4

However, LPG supply to hospitals, hostels, residential schools and large manufacturing facilities across the state would continue without disruption. Gas for vehicles, including autorickshaws, would also be unaffected.

In the legislative council, food and civil supplies minister KH Muniyappa, who reviewed the ground situation, said that with oil companies left with limited stock, ensuring normal supply was extremely difficult. The govt has told hoteliers to "patiently wait" for 7-10 days.

In the interim, the govt has asked hoteliers to switch to electric stoves.

▶Will take time: Min, P 4

Reuters

Unable to get LPG refills, a hotel in Bengaluru downed shutters on Friday. Govt has asked hoteliers to switch to electric stoves

SC: Mandatory period leave may deter firms from hiring women

'It's For Govt To Take A Call On Framing Policy'

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New Delhi: Frowning at an advocate's repeated attempts through PILs to seek paid two-day monthly menstrual leave for female workers, Supreme Court said Friday that such a move could create a psychological barrier among women that they are inferior to men as they can't work when they are menstruating.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi said, "Please understand the long-term impact of such a move. Affirmative action for women is constitutionally recognised. The more unattractive the human resource, the less is the possibility of consumption in the job market."

"We can adjudicate it from the rights' perspective. But look at the perspective of the job model. Will an employer be happy if an employee takes leave every month? You want to create such a situation where employers will be reluctant to give women jobs," the bench said.

However, it said, "It is for the govt to take a call in framing model policy..."

▶Warns petitioner, P 12

Kerala govt U-turn: To oppose women entry in Sabarimala

Ahead of elections in Kerala, the state's LDF govt decided Friday to back an SC affidavit seeking steps to preserve the customs and traditions of Sabarimala, aligning with the shrine board's position and reconsidering its earlier stance of supporting the entry of women of all ages. The shift came after the CPM state secretariat came out in favour of traditions. CPM had earlier supported the 2018 SC verdict allowing the entry of women. P 15

Congress moves 8 Odisha MLAs to resort in B'luru ahead of RS polls

Bengaluru/Bhubaneswar: Amid fears of cross-voting and poaching attempts, Congress has moved eight of its MLAs from Odisha to a resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru ahead of the March 16 Rajya Sabha polls. Party sources said the legislators will be flown back to Odisha Monday, just hours before voting, **report SantoshKumar B and Ashok Pradhan.**

While Congress is keeping a hawk eye on its legislators to stymie any possibility of its members shifting their allegiance, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik has directed his party MLAs to attend mandatory evening "training sessions" at his residence in Bhubaneswar for three days from Friday. This is to familiarise them with RS election procedures and rules. A total of five candidates are in the fray for the four RS seats from Odisha. In the 147-member Odisha assembly, governing BJP has 79 MLAs, BJD 48, while Congress has 14.

▶Cross-voting fears, P 4

Bank ordered to pay co for refusing to deposit ₹3.2cr during DeMon

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New Delhi: In 2016, Axis Bank refused to allow a Delhi-based company to deposit Rs 3.2 crore in cash during demonetisation. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has now ordered the bank to pay the amount with 6% interest to the company as its cash turned into "worthless paper" when the deadline passed and suffered "irreversible loss".

The bank defended its decision on the ground that the deposit was suspicious, but the commission said the bank unilaterally branding the complainant, Procure Logistics Services Private Limited, as high-risk account and denying deposit of cash in their own KYC-compliant account during the critical time window violated govt policies and RBI notifications.

▶'Accept deposits', P 12

IN THE COURTS

- **15 yrs of marriage & 2 kids no ground to quash abetment to suicide** & cruelty charges against hubby: K'taka HC | P 6
- SC asks govt to devise a remunerative framework to **nudge farmers to shift** from wheat, paddy **to pulses** | P 14
- CSK tells Madras HC that it **will stop using Rajinikanth film songs** in promotional content for IPL 2026 | P 11
- U'khand HC orders cop suspension, transfer of police station staff **over FIR against forest official** based on **mining mafia complaint** | P11

Trans bill drops 'self-perceived identity' clause

New Delhi: In a major departure from the existing law, 'The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill 2026' introduced in the Lok Sabha has proposed to omit the clause that allowed "self-perceived gender identity" to be the basis for self-determination and for obtaining a transgender certificate, **reports Ambika Pandit.**

"The existing vague definition of the expression 'transgender person' not only makes it impossible to identify the genuine oppressed persons to whom the benefits of the Act are intended to reach," the statement of objects and reasons of the bill introduced by social justice and empowerment minister Virendra Kumar explained.

▶DM will certify, P 11

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Apartment residents are prepping for Ugadi and Ram Navami

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Community bonds grow stronger with every shared festival. Apartments across the city are celebrating Ugadi, the traditional New Year of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and some parts of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, in a spirit of joy, cultural pride, and harmony.

The festivities will include traditional decorations with mango leaves, rangoli at home entrances, devotional prayers, and the sharing of Ugadi Pachadi — symbolising the many flavours of life and the wisdom to accept them with grace.

Parkwest residents will celebrate Ugadi at Club Uno with a series of cultural and festive activities. The event will feature Panchanga Shravana, a comedy talk by MS Narasimha Murthy, a cultural quiz, karaoke, and a rangoli competition, said Ajay Kumar TR, president of the Parkwest Apex Association. The celebrations will conclude with a traditional banana leaf dinner for about 1,000 residents.

But beyond the rituals, the celebration carries a deeper message, said Hunaid Topiwala, vice-president of Mantri Pinnacle Residents' Association. "In a diverse community comprising families from different regions, faiths, and cultures, Ugadi becomes an occasion not merely to mark the passage of time but to reaffirm the values of togetherness, mutual respect, and inclusiveness. As residents gather to greet the new year, the festival becomes a reminder that while traditions may differ, the spirit of goodwill and shared humanity unites all."

HERALDING NEW BEGINNINGS: Ugadi is celebrated with vibrant Rangoli designs and devotional prayers

Ram Navami celebrations with Ram Sita Kalyanam

Embassy Pristine, a vibrant community of 420 apartments in Bellandur, celebrates Ram Navami every year on a grand scale.

The highlight of the celebration is the Shri Ram and Sita Devi Kalyanam, performed by priests on March 28. "Two resident couples take on the symbolic role of the parents of Shri Ram and Sita Devi, making the ceremony feel like a real traditional wedding within our community. Residents gather to witness and participate in this divine celebration," said Pushpa Kumar, cultural secretary of the apartment.

Before the wedding ceremony, the idols of Shri Ram and Sita Devi will be taken in a grand procession around the community, creating a festive and devotional atmosphere.

The celebrations that begin with an ooregimpu (procession) are followed by bhajans and dance. After the ceremony, prasadam is distributed to all attendees.

The celebrations then continue with the Akhanda Ramayana Parayan, where priests and residents come together to read the Ramayana continuously for 24 hours without a break.

MY FAVOURITE RECIPE

Chethan Shivakumar

Raghavendra (second from left) with his wife Rajashree, and neighbour Charan

WHERE KISHORE KUMAR MEETS THE JUICE JAR

Raghavendra Rao

As the world races ahead, I choose to slow down — to heal, to share, and to let joy travel a little further.

I am a passionate fan of the legendary Kishore Kumar. His voice has been my companion for decades. I often say with pride that "I can sing 1,200 Kishore Kumar songs without looking at the lyrics — and be 99% accurate." I regularly perform at seniors' homes, for cancer patients, and for elderly communities, with music serving as the food for my soul.

I also make healthy juices that nourish my body. When both come together, it is therapy.

Passion for Wellness in a Glass

One of my greatest joys is crafting healthy juices made from real fruit and fresh ingredients. I make more than 200 varieties of smoothies and lovingly share those creations with friends, relatives, and close-knit communities. The late Dr HSV was particularly fond of my smoothies — especially my musk melon banana milkshake and my comforting drumstick soup.

Today, I want to share one of my favourite signature blends: A vibrant juice made from watermelon, tender coconut, beetroot, and lime. Health experts often note that these ingredients support kidney and liver health.

INGREDIENTS (FOR 3 LARGE GLASSES)

- Watermelon - 1.5 kg
- Beetroot - 4 (medium-sized)
- Tender coconut - 1
- Lemon - 1
- A pinch of salt

Method:

- Peel and cut the beetroot. Boil it for 10 minutes to remove any raw smell. Allow it to cool
- Cut the watermelon and extract only the pulp into a mixer jar
- Add boiled beetroot
- Pour in the fresh tender coconut water
- Squeeze the lime and add a pinch of salt
- Blend for 3-5 minutes until smooth
- Pour the mix into a jug and refrigerate.
- Serve chilled.

Raghavendra lives in Mahaveer Trishala Apartment in Pushpagiri Nagar BSK 3rd Stage

Chethan Shivakumar

A HEARTY IFTAR GATHERING: Fayiza Sulaiha's Iftar party featured traditional homemade dishes, besides fruits, salads and fresh juices. Some items were brought by family and friends

Ramzan delicacies including kebabs and steaks at a street side food stall on Chandni Chowk Road

SUNSET FEASTS
HITTING THE RAMZAN FOOD TRAIL

Ileena Dutta & Mini Thomas | TNN

As dusk falls over Bengaluru during Ramzan, several neighbourhoods turn into vibrant food hubs. The call to prayer at sunset marks the end of the day's fast — with no food and no water — and soon the smell of grilled meat, spices, and desserts fills the air. From traditional Muslim neighborhoods to newer festival sites, the city embraces a month-long celebration of culinary delights and community. Popular hotspots this year include Sheesh Mahal on Palace Grounds, Empire near Koramangala, and the Chandni Chowk area in Shivajinagar.

The Iftar food streets are the most iconic attractions, with rows of evening stalls serving dishes prepared specially for breaking the fast. Slow-cooked haleem is a crowd favourite, with many opting for skewers of seekh kebabs, boti kebabs, and malai tikka sizzling over charcoal grills while vendors flip baida roti, keema samosas, and crispy cutlets on large iron tawas. Many stalls also offer biryani, mandi rice, khichda, and nalli nihari, attracting both fasting devotees and curious food lovers. "I'm a mother and homemaker often bored to death at home. This year, I set up a stall with homemade kebabs, cakes, sweets, and chocolates. It is very empowering for me and other women here," said Farah Mubarak at the Sheesh Mahal Ramzan food festival.

FREE SEHRI BOXES FOR THOSE WHO ARE FASTING

Irfan Khan (36), distributes 1,100 sehri boxes daily within a 14 km radius around Chickpet Metro Station with the help of 100 volunteers. The 'Irfan I Care Sehri Project' distributes boxes to patients and their families in hospitals and to people living in PGs, funded mostly by contributions from relatives.

Another team led by Sadiq Rahmatullah distributes 500-600 sehri meals in Shivajinagar, Ulsoor, Benson Town, Kamraj Commercial Area, Chinnappa Garden, Marappa Garden, and Vasanthnagar. "We provide sehri boxes which usually include ghee rice, dal, vegetables, sometimes mutton biryani, raita, and occasionally a sweet — enough for those fasting to start their day with dignity," he said.

> Iftar gatherings carry great blessings — sharing food, strengthening bonds and remembering Allah together. Even offering a simple date or water can become a source of immense reward.
>
> **Fayiza Sulaiha** | RESIDENT, THE PROMONT APARTMENT, BANASHANKARI 3RD STAGE

> Our Iftar gethering focused on supporting homegrown entrepreneurs, with all the dishes thoughtfully curated from local home-based food creators.
>
> **Shahista and Fathima Siraj** | WHO HOSTED AN IFTAR PARTY

> Iftar means simply breaking the fast. During Ramzan, we bond over food, rituals and conversation. We'll have a small get-together at our place next week. One of the major pillars in Islam is zakah (zakat). It is an annual financial obligation for Muslims who meet a minimum wealth threshold. Most people give money and food during Ramzan. Money is mostly given in charity to people in need, and food is given to everyone. Ramzan is about compassion and service. Even a small team can make a big difference when hearts come together to ensure everyone has food for sehri.
>
> **Sadiq Rahmathulla** | RESIDENT, SHIVAJINAGAR, BENGALURU

Desserts round out the experience with phirni, malpua and rabri, jalebi, and sheer kurma and as well as Turkish sweets such as baklava and kunafa. Rose milk (mohabbat ki sharbaat) and refreshing lime soda are among the favourite drinks.

A Festival Of Communities

Ramzan food culture has moved beyond traditional areas, drawing a wide mix of visitors. "We welcome people from all communities. This is our second year organising this festival at Palace Sheesh Mahal, with stalls offering food, fashion, jewellery and home-made attar perfumes. Hundreds of food stalls remain open from 5 pm to 3 am," said Muyeen Wahab, the organiser of the 20-day festival, which will end on March 19.

This festival is the most sought-after this year, with organised stalls and expos under a single roof. "Most Muslims will fast throughout the month, every day with just suhur/sehri and Iftar daily. This is already considered a healthy practice. So, we generally don't dedicate special healthy meals at stalls because after fasting, people do love to indulge in all sorts of delicacies," said Muyeen Wahab.

In Shivajinagar, Chandni Chowk, Mosque Road and nearby streets, host a bustling Ramzan mela with shawarma, kebabs, seafood dishes, and elaborate Iftar platters alongside classic dishes for the month of fasting. "It's a tradition to set up stalls for everyone to enjoy delicious food and embrace the celebrations. Skewers are the most in demand among people," said Fahad, a vendor at the Shivajinagar mela.

At Koramangala, haleem vendor Abdul said they often cook the meals before dawn and after 8 pm daily, to keep them fresh. "After breaking our daily fast, we set up the food stalls for everyone."

Warm, Cosy Home Gatherings

House gatherings to break the fast are an equally cherished tradition. Friends Shahista and Fathima Siraj curated a community Iftar gathering at home, designing and styling the entire table with a refined, Pinterest-inspired aesthetic that blended elegance with warmth.

The spread included both vegetarian and non-vegetarian delicacies to keep it inclusive. "More than a dining experience, the gathering aimed to create a space where people from different backgrounds can connect, share moments, and celebrate the spirit of Ramzan together," said Shahista.

Tameena Ali, who recently attended two house Iftars stretching till 5 am, said, "The food was mostly homemade with minimal catering." She also went to eat from stalls in Frazer Town and Koramangala. "House gatherings feel warm and personal, while street parties are more fun and lavish." Not just food, she was also busy buying accessories such as rings, pendants and earrings to match her newly-purchased outfits for Eid.

What sets Bengaluru's Ramzan scene apart is its diverse crowd — tech workers stopping by after work, families out for an evening, students and tourists. The lively conversations, clanging ladles and the glow of festive lights create an atmosphere reminiscent of an enchanting street carnival.

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Website : https://makaranda-er12.onrender.com

LESSON 5 QUIZ

Section 1: Fill in the blanks with the correct option

1. tarakaarigaLu tajaa _____?
a) ideyaa b) iveyaa c) ide d) None of these

2. haLLiginta paTTaNadalli _____jaasti.
a) yaake b) hechchu c) kharchugaLu d) kaDime

3. namma angaDiyallE bele kaDime, _____kELbiTTu tagoLLi.
a) koDi b) bEkaa c) nimage d) bEkaadre

4. _____bandiddu, nODi beNDEkaayi eSHTu taajaa ide.
a) ninne b) naaLe c) monne d) eegaSHTe

5. nagaradalli_____jaasti, haLLiyalli_____kaDime.
a) bele,bele b) bele, bale c) jaasti, kaDime d) Both a and b

6. nanna purse illE iTTidde, kaaNistaa illa, swalpa _____ koDteeraa?
a) nidhaana b)bEga c)kELbiTTu d) huDuki

7. ee mane chikkadu, adakke____ mane nODtaa iddeevi.
a) bEre b) kelasa c) hesaru d) None of these

8. sambaarige yaavudannu haakuttaare ?
a)karibEvu b) kottambari c) eeruLLi d) All of these

9. idu tumbaa khaara.
a) soutEkaayi b) badanEkaayi c) hasiru meNasinakaayi d) None of these

10. gajjari ya baNNa____, soutEkaayiya baNNa____.
a) kappu,kempu b) kEsari, hasiru c) kempu, haLadi d) hasiru, neeli

11. gumpige sErada padavannu aayke maaDi.
a) sOrEkaayi b) heerEkaayi c) badanEkaayi d) kottambari

12. namma oorige banni kaDime belege oLLe gajjari_____.
a) haaki b) koDisteeni c) koDi d) both b and c

13. ee keLaginavugaLalli sariyaada vaakya yaavudu?
a. pratidina neevu maarukaTTege hOgi tarakaarigaLannu tagoNDu barteevi
b. pratidina neenu maarukaTTege hOgi tarakaarigaLannu tagoNDu barteeni
c. pratidina naavu maarukaTTege hOgi tarakaarigaLannu tagoNDu barteevi
d. pratidina naanu maarukaTTege hOgi tarakaarigaLannu tagoNDu barteeni

14. monne naanu namma haLLige_____.
a. hOgidde b. hOgi c. hOguttaa iddeeni d. both a & c

15. ee angaDi _____ Karnataka kke _____.
a. iDee, prasiddha b. masaaledOse, Mysuru c. iDee, jaasti d. prasiddha, dOse

16. hookOsu, elekOsu pallya andare nanage tumbaa_____.
a) iSHTa b) kaSHTa c) bEku d) prasiddha

17. namma maneyalli naavu hechchu _____ baLasalla.
a. neeru b. eNNe c. baNNa d. None of these

18. Doctor hELiddaare, naanu dOse _____ anta.
a. tinnu b. tinnabahudu c. tinnabaaradu d. both b & c

19. neevu kelasa maaDilla andarU____illa, naanu maaDteeni.
a) tondare b) hELilla c) hOgilla d) All of these

20. avara mane eraDanEya_____ yallide, _____gaLannu hatti hOgbEKu.
a) mane, mahaDi b) mahaDi, meTTilu c) meTTilu,hatti d) None of these

21. baagilu muchchutte, bEga_____. maarukaTTe bantu, bEga _____.
a. hatti, iLiri b. haari, aDi c. nilli, koori d. All of these

22. ee saari oorige barOke aagalla____saari khaNDita barteeni.
a. naaLe b. naaDiddu c. mundina d. hindina

Exercises: Section2

Translate the following sentences into Kannada. Read out the sentences, record your voice, and upload the recording by scanning the QR code below by March 15, 2026(Sunday),11:59pm. Top three submissions will be recognized.

1. Take the stairs on your right and go to 3rd floor.
2. I bought these vegetables from the market two days ago.
3. Don't worry, I will drop you at Majestic.
4. Get in fast, the doors are closing, you can get down at Cubbon Park.
5. Why is the price of green chilies low in the village?

Answer Keys for previous lesson 5C - Section 1

A. Match the following
1-e, 2-k, 3-j, 4-b, 5-h, 6-c, 7-i, 8-d, 9-f, 10-g,11-l,12-a

Winners of the contest Lesson 5C Section2

Lakshmi N

Paresh Ashara

DANCE, MUSIC AND FASHION FOR CHANGE: At the annual event organised by Samathvam India, Suma Ithal and her students performed a folk dance, while a fashion show drew enthusiastic participation

SAMATHVAM INDIA CELEBRATES CULTURE

Samathvam India recently organised an annual event that featured a folk dance, a jam session, and a fashion show choreographed by Dr Sindur Nagaraj. The fashion show aimed to support the health and hygiene of girl children.

Founded by Dr Sindur, a yoga therapist, Ayurvedic physician, and Tai Chi instructor, the Malleswaram-based group conducts exhibitions three times a year. The proceeds from these events go towards supporting underprivileged women and children.

Samathvam Santhe, one of the group's popular initiatives provides a platform for women entrepreneurs and includes skill development programmes. The organisation also helps distribute sweaters and caps donated by Knitters, another group, to those in need, especially children. Another project to provide warm clothes for newborns is in the pipeline.

Write in to **timescommunity@timesofindia.com** with your photo

A VIBRANT HUB FOR CINEPHILES

EMAILS FROM READERS

Thank you for the heart-warming article on film clubs (Times Community, March 7). Parallel Cinema Club is proud to be part of this bustling community of cinema enthusiasts in the city. The community indulges in cinema, while the curation team rigorously researches and scouts for the best ones.

We put our heart and soul into curation to give our audience an enriching experience. Our selections are guided by research into film history and critical essays, which help us build the framework for each lineup. The process usually begins months in advance, and we often plan our programmes for the entire year.

TOI, MARCH 7, 2026

Light, camera, conversation

REEL BUDDIES IN OTT ERA

This month marks our fifth anniversary, so we are revisiting films that hold a special place for us.

In Jan and Feb, we curated a series on 'female gaze', focusing on forgotten women directors and the perils of patriarchy.

Our programming strictly highlights art cinema, and we have screened films from countries such as Senegal, Burkina Faso, Angola and Lebanon, among many others. We have also curated programmes on experimental cinema — films that rarely appear on mainstream radars — and make it a point to showcase them.

Each screening is followed by a discussion, and we have also introduced reading sessions on film essays to familiarise members with film literature.

Many members enjoy this informal, scholastic approach. It's encouraging to see people bond over cinema, while building a strong community around it.

Nikhil Waiker
FOUNDER AND CURATOR, PARALLEL CINEMA CLUB

AN ENGAGING AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE: Thanks to film clubs, cinephiles in the city can enjoy carefully curated films together and take part in lively discussions. It deepens understanding and sparks new perspectives.

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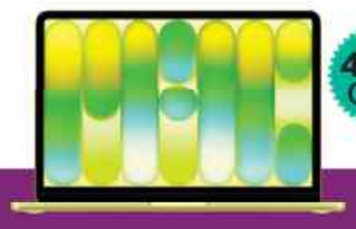

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DISRUPTED EXPORTS TO GULF NATIONS SEND PRICES CRASHING DOMESTICALLY | APARTMENTS ASKED TO USE LPG WISELY

Egg price drops, but not for us

Wholesale Fall Not Reflected In Retail Rates

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Even though egg prices have fallen sharply in wholesale markets across Karnataka amid export disruptions linked to the conflict in West Asia, consumers in Bengaluru and neighbouring districts are yet to enjoy any relief, with most retailers keeping rates unchanged.

When **TOI** enquired across the city, one egg was still being sold for between Rs 6 and Rs 7.5. According to the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), the wholesale price Friday stood at Rs 4.8 in Bengaluru — a slight increase from Rs 4.7 and Rs 4.6 in the previous three days.

A few customers also expressed concerns about prices not being reduced and the benefit not reaching the end user. Hassain, a resident of Hennur, said: "As a customer, I feel the benefit of the lower wholesale price should reach us too. Egg prices usually keep going up, but now they are lower, we should also benefit."

Vaisnav, a wholesale dealer, said: "We get our stock usually from Tamil Nadu. As of Friday, the wholesale price was Rs 4.8. Initially, when the tensions began, we got lower stock than requested; now, we are getting full stock."

Shyamala James, a resident of Indiranagar, said, "Even though the wholesale price of eggs is around Rs 4.8, retail prices in Bengaluru vary from shop to shop. If stores followed a consistent price, it would make buying from local shops easier and increase consumer trust."

Prices could pick up

With the sharp fall in prices, egg production has dropped slightly now, which in turn might slowly push the price back up. According to V Sheshanarayan, sales promotion officer at NECC, after the prices dropped sharply, farmers in Tamil Nadu's Namakkal (one of the largest egg producers in South India, with 7 crore eggs produced a day) culled chickens. "Production dropped in Namakkal after they started culling the chickens, and because of the bad summer, chickens are dying in large numbers, leading to decreased production. They have also started moulting, a process in which the laying of eggs is purposefully delayed to manage existing stock."

These changes in Namakkal have had an impact on Bengaluru consumers. "Karnataka produces over 2.5 crore eggs, and Bengaluru alone consumes between 80 lakh to 1 crore eggs daily. But of this, close to 45 lakh eggs are supplied from Namakkal alone. Any changes there will have an impact on the Bengaluru market," Sheshanarayan said.

He told **TOI** that eggs from Karnataka are exported to other states and countries. Explaining why the end consumer has not benefited from the price fall, he explained, "It is always the middleman who tries to get the benefit; neither the farmer nor the consumer gets it. For instance, in Mysuru, the wholesale price is Rs 4.85. Eggs are bought from the farmer at Rs 4.5 apiece, but in the market they are sold at Rs 6 to Rs 6.5. End customers should understand the prices and accordingly buy from retail stores. Retail shops cannot increase the price much beyond the running wholesale price."

Chicken prices to be hit?

Prasanna N, managing partner at Nandini Poultry Breeding Farms and secretary of Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders' Association, said: "The price of eggs has come down by almost Rs 3... All our exports have halted due to the unavailability of flights. From Karnataka, eggs are largely exported from Mysuru, Davanagere, and other North Karnataka districts to countries like Oman, Kuwait, and Qatar. This has now stopped, leading to a fall in prices."

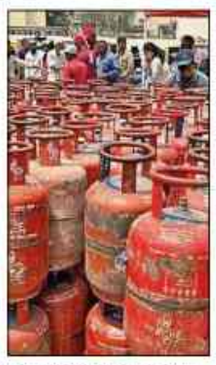
He also mentioned that every month, 50 lakh hatching eggs are exported to these countries — which has not happened this month. If the trend continues for the next few months and all such eggs hatch within the state, the price of chicken could also come down, he added.

March 13	₹4.8
March 12	₹4.7
March 11	₹4.6
March 10	₹4.6
March 9	₹4.6
March 8	₹4.8
March 7	₹4.8

Source: National Egg Coordination Committee

"Eggs are an important and affordable source of nutrition for many families, so it would be good if the drop in prices is passed on more fairly to end users
Nirmala B | RESIDENT OF HULIMAVU

Pics: PTI, Reuters & Syed Asif



RUNNING OUT OF GAS: People continued to queue up with empty cylinders outside gas agencies in Bengaluru Friday amid reports of LPG shortage. In the meantime, a number of hotels across the state have downed shutters

10-12 carriers held up & will take time: Min

▶ Continued from page 1

After council members Ivan D'Souza and Nagaraj Yadav brought up the shortage of commercial cylinders, Muniyappa said, "Two carriers managed to arrive (from Strait of Hormuz) with supplies, while 10-12 are held up. It will take time for them to reach our shores. Until then, we have to make do with what we have."

When legislators said autorickshaws were allegedly running out of gas, Muniyappa said oil companies have been instructed to ensure uninterrupted supply of auto LPG at fuel stations. He ruled out any disruption in supply.

About complaints that several stations across the state have increased auto LPG prices by Rs 20 to Rs 25 per kg, Muniyappa told **TOI** he has directed deputy commissioners to closely monitor the situation. In instances of unauthorised price hike, deputy commissioners will raid and seal such stations and area police inspectors will monitor the price, he added.

Karnataka will host stranded tourists: Min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Tourism minister **HK Patil** Friday said the state govt is taking proactive steps to host international tourists stranded due to the ongoing West Asia conflict.

"Although the conflict has no direct impact on India, it has disrupted travel plans of tourists, particularly from West Asia. Many are unable to return home due to visa and travel restrictions. Karnataka is taking steps to ensure their stay is comfortable until the situation stabilises, including managing visas and providing assistance," the minister said at the inauguration of the three-day Travel and Tourism Fair at Palace Grounds.

Patil also said the state is focusing on excavation projects and developing large open-air museums. "A dedicated museum will be set up in Lakkundi, where around 1,500 artefacts have been collected and nearly 3,500 items researched. Recently, a family donated a 600-year-old ornament, originally used to adorn a devi, which experts valued at Rs 5 crore," he added.

Man tries to book transport to get AP rice, loses ₹2.3L

Chaithanya.Swamy
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A BMTC driver was trying to book transport online to procure rice from Andhra Pradesh Tuesday, but lost around Rs 2.3 lakh in less than 10 minutes after he clicked on a suspicious link.

In his complaint to police, the victim, Dileep Huvappa Pol, 47, stated he wanted to purchase 8 to 10 tonnes of quality rice from a trader in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. While searching online for transport services on March 10 to check the charges and delivery time from Nellore to Bengaluru, he received a call from an unknown number. "The caller claimed to be from a well-known transport company and spoke in Hindi. He asked if I was looking for transport. When I asked for the price, he said he would send me a link where I could see truck driver details and the price list based on distance," Dileep stated.

After the call ended, he received a message containing a link. Assuming it was genuine, he clicked on it. "Shortly afterwards, my phone froze. I suspected something was wrong. The money was debited from my bank accounts."

As per Dileep's complaint, Rs 90,000 was first transferred to the UPI ID navirajibulislam4828@naviaxis, Rs 99,000 to 8272934602@nyes and 907336342@nyes, and Rs 40,000 to 907336343@nyes from another account. In total, around Rs 2.3 lakh was fraudulently siphoned off between 10.10am and 10.20am.

Soon after the transactions, Dileep's mobile phone was allegedly switched off automatically and his Whats App account was logged out, leaving him unable to access the device. When he approached his banks requesting them to block the transactions, he was advised to lodge a complaint with police. He was allegedly told that the issue could take up to three months to be resolved.

A senior officer said a case was registered under Information Technology Act and Section 318 (cheating) of BNS and an investigation is under way.

"If fraudsters can access activities on my mobile phone and commit fraud, why can't the govt and Reserve Bank of India take stricter measures to safeguard our money?" Dileep questioned.

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There are concerns of possible cross-voting by MLAs: DKS

▶ Continued from page 1

For RS polls, a candidate needs at least 30 first-preference votes to win a seat. On current strength, two BJP candidates and one BJD nominee are expected to win comfortably.

For the fourth seat, BJP has backed Independent candidate Dilip Ray, a former Union minister, while BJD and Congress have jointly fielded Dr Datteshwar Hota. Congress and BJD have the numbers to ensure Hota's win if there is no cross-voting. However, the presence of Ray has queered the pitch for Congress and BJD, and hence the desperation to keep their flocks together.

Karnataka deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who is overseeing arrangements for the MLAs' stay at the Wonderla resort off Mysuru Road near Bidadi, said: "There were concerns of possible cross-voting and attempts to influence MLAs with big offers. As a safeguard, the leadership decided to move them out of the state until voting."

With 79 MLAs and support from three Independents, BJP will have 23 surplus first-preference votes for Ray, after securing the required numbers for its two official candidates, Manmohan Samal and Sujeet Kumar. The votes of two suspended BJD MLAs, Sanatan Mahakud and Arvind Mohapatra, and any possible cross-voting are headwinds that Congress and BJD must guard against.

The MLAs housed at the Bengaluru resort are Rajan Ekka, Ashok Das, Appala Kumar Swamy, Mangu Killo, Pavitra Sauntha, Nilamadhav Hikka, Prafulla Pradhan, and Satyajeet Gomongo.

"Look, I had faced a lot of income tax raids for hosting Gujarat MLAs in 2017. Even then, we'll do whatever the party tells us to. These are nothing new," said Shivakumar, who visited the resort late Friday evening.

Go electric & save LPG, says apartment federation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: It is time for you to dust off your induction cooktops, air fryers and electric pressure cookers.

Amid rising concerns about LPG shortage, Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) has issued an advisory urging residents to adopt responsible consumption practices, including cooking with electric devices. The advisory encourages residents to use induction cooktops for boiling and everyday cooking.

Electric pressure cookers can be used for making curries, rice and lentils, while air fryers and electric grills can be a good option for frying and roasting. Using electricity for 30-40% of cooking activities can significantly reduce LPG consumption across the community, states the advisory. Residents and management committees have also been advised against panic booking and stockpiling, as booking multiple cylinders could put pressure on the system.

HOW ASSOCIATIONS CAN HELP

- Circulate LPG conservation tips among residents of apartment complexes
- Encourage partial use of electric appliances such as air fryers & electric pressure cookers
- Advise residents not to hoard cylinders
- Monitor whether multiple cylinders are being stored unsafely in flats
- Encourage residents to adopt responsible LPG consumption practices using platforms like WhatsApp

Source: BAF

AI

HOW TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION

You can extend your LPG cylinder's life 15-20% by adopting the following measures:

- Clean burners regularly for efficient flame
- Use correct burner size for utensils
- Keep vessels covered while cooking
- Use pressure cookers wherever possible
- Avoid keeping flame on unnecessarily

GBA creates 50 divisions for smooth functioning

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has created 50 divisions and 150 sub-divisions across its jurisdiction as part of efforts to streamline administrative functioning following restructuring of the city's civic governance.

The decision came after the reorganisation of 369 wards under the Greater Bengaluru Administration Act, 2024, which came into force on May 15 last year, replacing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with a new multi-corporation governance model.

Under the new structure, Bengaluru has been divided into five city corporations — Central, East, West, North and South — each responsible for managing civic administration within their respective jurisdictions. Officials said the newly created divisions and sub-divisions will help improve coordination and implementation of work across key departments, including revenue, public works and health. According to the circular issued by the authority, Bengaluru Central city corporation, with 63 wards, will have seven divisions and 24 sub-divisions; Bengaluru East (50 wards) will have seven divisions and 22 sub-divisions; Bengaluru West (the largest with 112 wards) will have 15 divisions and 45 sub-divisions; Bengaluru North (72 wards) will have 11 divisions and 30 sub-divisions; and Bengaluru South (72 wards) will have 10 divisions and 29 sub-divisions.

GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao said the restructuring aims to ensure smoother administrative functioning across the newly formed civic bodies.

File photo

RESTRUCTURING GOVERNANCE

PU pupils can improve results in 2 yrs

Bengaluru: Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has tweaked rules for improving II pre-university (PU) exam results. Students who wish to improve their results have to do so within the next year.

As per a govt order, all types of students — regular, private, and repeaters — can write three exams in the year they registered and sit for the exams held during the next academic year. Earlier, students could take exams up to six times.

The change has come after the department moved to a three-exam system for SSLC and II PU, giving students three chances every year to improve their scores. KSEAB said the new rule has made management of mark sheets easier. "Earlier, mark sheets were printed and distributed to students who passed or failed in previous years. However, when failed students tried again to improve their results and succeeded, the mark sheets needed to be reprinted. The original mark sheets were withdrawn and new ones issued. The management of mark sheets would thus become cumbersome," the order read. TNN

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This legend lives on, not only in his family but also in the many lives which he touched.
Remembered by
A. NARASIMHAN
A. ARUMUGAM & FAMILY MEMBERS

SAD DEMISE

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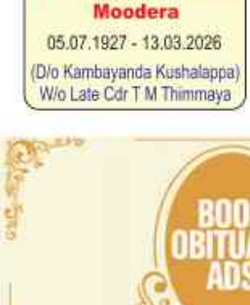

Parvathy Thimmaya Moodera
05.07.1927 - 13.03.2026
(D/o Kambayanda Kushalappa)
W/o Late Cdr T M Thimmaya

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

THIRD YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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Managing Director
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Sons: Sanjiv Pasrad S, Captain Bhaskar Prasad S
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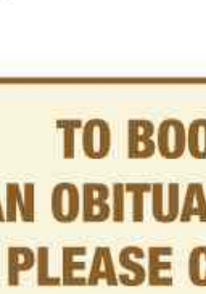
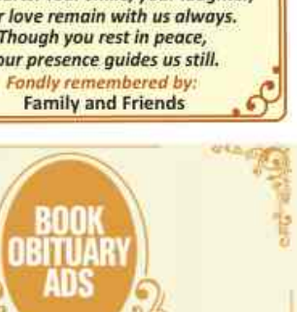
SHARING MEMORIES



Birthday Remembrance
V.M. Muninanja Reddy (M.N.Reddy)
"You may be far from us. but the love we feel for you only grows. We miss you more than words can express."- Wife, Sons, Daughter-in-Laws & Grand Children.

5th Year Remembrance



10.07.1969 14.03.2021
B.V.S. MURTHY
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2 EV firms cheat people with subsidised offer; 2 arrested

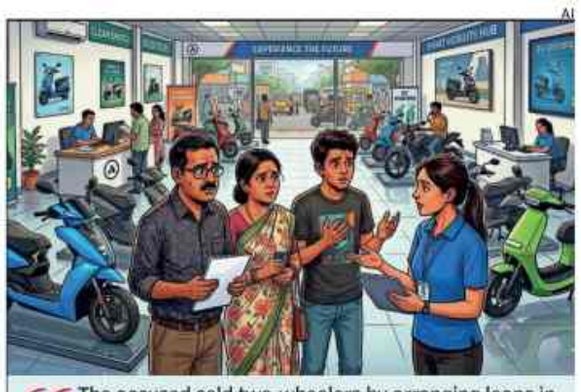
Many Did Not Get Vehicles Delivered

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Two electric vehicle companies have allegedly cheated several people by offering electric two-wheelers at subsidised prices under the guise of a Prime Minister's scheme. Police have arrested two persons.

The arrested are Hanumantha Bilkar, owner of Bilkar Technologies in Ramaiah Layout, Nagasandra; and Rakesh, owner of Appke EV in Peenya. According to police, two complaints were registered against the companies on Feb 11 and Feb 23 at Peenya police station and Bagalagunte police station, respectively.

DCP (north-west) DL Nagesh said the accused in both cases sold two-wheelers by arranging loans in buyers' names that were credited to their companies. They allegedly got loans sanctioned for nearly double the price of the vehicle and told buyers they only needed to pay the last three to four EMIs, while the companies would pay the remaining instalments.



"The accused sold two-wheelers by arranging loans in buyers' names that were credited to their companies. They allegedly got loans sanctioned for nearly double the price of the vehicle and told buyers that they only needed to pay the last three to four EMIs, while the companies would pay the rest. Initially, the companies paid the EMIs, but later stopped doing so, leaving buyers to face demands from banks and finance firms

DL Nagesh | DCP (NORTH-WEST)

Initially, the companies paid the EMIs, but later stopped doing so, leaving buyers to face demands from banks and finance firms.

A senior officer said the companies procured parts of electric two-wheelers from Delhi, assembled them in Bengaluru, and sold them through their showrooms.

One of the victims, Smruthi, 38, a resident of Chokkasandra, told Peenya police that she visited the Appke showroom in Nov last year. Staff allegedly told her that she could buy an EV at a subsidised price under a PM scheme. They said the vehicle cost Rs 70,000, and she needed to pay only Rs 25,000 as a deposit, while the remaining amount would be arranged as a bank loan, with the company promising to pay the EMIs. They also told her that once the loan amount was cleared, the subsidy amount would be credited to her account.

Smruthi paid the deposit, but the showroom did not issue a receipt. Staff assured delivery of the vehicle within seven days.

However, the vehicle was never delivered. When she later met Rakesh and Hanumantha, she learnt that a loan of about Rs 1.4 lakh had already been taken in her name and Rs 5,463 was being debited from her account every month. When she approached the bank (Kotak Mahindra), she alleged that the staff did not provide proper information about the loan.

In the other complaint filed, P Ramesh, 48, a resident of Doddabidarakallu, told police that he approached the Bilkar showroom in Dec last year. The accused, including Hanumantha, Rakesh, and others, allegedly offered him an EV at a subsidised price and asked him to deposit Rs 13,000 for a vehicle priced at Rs 70,000. They took Rs 1 lakh loan in his name from an online loan app (Zype). The accused did not deliver the vehicle, and Ramesh soon began receiving calls from the finance firm asking him to pay the EMI.

A senior officer said the accused had taken loans in the names of around 900 people. Vehicles were delivered to many of them, but the companies allegedly stopped paying EMIs as promised.

Late for flight, DJ booked for 'bomb' remark at B'luru airport

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 40-year-old disc jockey was booked after allegedly making a remark referring to a bomb while arguing with airline staff at Kempegowda International Airport Wednesday.

The accused, Rajatesh Bera, a native of Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, works as a DJ in Bengaluru. He was scheduled to travel from Bengaluru to Raipur on IndiGo flight 6E 978 on March 11.

According to the complaint filed by the airline staff, Bera went to Gate No. 16 in Terminal 1 at 6.10am. The gate staff denied him entry as he had reached post-boarding time. On being told that the cutoff time had passed, Bera retorted, asking whether the flight would have stopped if there was a bomb on board.

The mention of the word "bomb" triggered concern among airport authorities, setting off a slew of security protocols as such statements are treated as serious safety threats in aviation. A bomb threat assessment committee was constituted to evaluate the seriousness of the threat.

Bera was handed over to KIA police. Bera told cops he was facing an emergency and had to board the flight as his father was unwell. He was later released on bail.

Man with shoes in hand denied Metro entry, sparks online buzz

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: An attempt to cool down by a runner on his way home created online buzz after he claimed he was stopped at Cubbon Park Metro station for carrying his running shoes in his hand.

Shyam Mohan said he had just completed a run and removed his shoes to stretch his feet. With shoes in his hand, he attempted to enter the underground station only to be stopped at the entrance by security personnel, who allegedly told him the act was "indecent".

According to Mohan's post on X, this was not the first time he had made a barefoot entry into a Metro station. "I was returning home from a run and took my shoes off to stretch my feet. That was how I entered Cubbon Park Metro station. This wasn't the first time I did this, but it was the first time I was stopped," he wrote.

Thinking it was a one-off case of personal bias, he walked to the next Metro gate, only to be stopped again. This time, the security staff were "reasonable" and explained the rules.

The restriction appeared to have been implemented after a passenger recently complained about people travelling on the Metro while carrying their shoes in their hands.

A perplexed Mohan wondered if the restriction was Metro-wide. He wondered if he should try entering other Metro stations barefoot with shoes in hand and check if he is stopped in a similar fashion. "Maybe I'll try Lalbagh next?" Mohan added, as he thought of an actual verification.

SHOES ARE WELCOME ON METRO BUT CAN'T CARRY IN HAND: BMRCL

File photo

In a clarification, BMRCL said Namma Metro passengers are expected to follow basic etiquette while travelling. "Carrying shoes in hand could inconvenience fellow passengers if they accidentally touched others or if there was an odour," explained BMRCL chief public relations officer BL Yeshwanth. He added that Namma Metro does not stop anyone from using the service, but commuters are expected to adhere to certain norms.

The security staff merely advised the passenger to wear his shoes before travelling and did not prevent him from entering the station, he said.

The passenger initially attempted to enter Cubbon Park Metro station at 8.51am. He later wore the shoes he was carrying and entered the platform at 8.55am before boarding a train, Metro officials said.

WHAT NETIZENS SAY: WEAR YOUR FOOTWEAR OR PUT IT IN A BAG

The post triggered sharp reactions on 'X', mostly from people who believe carrying sweat-soaked shoes inside an air-conditioned Metro coach is a "big no-no."

"Metro is one of the few public services which is actually quite good. It's stupid to carry your shoes in your hand. Finish all your stretching outside, put on your shoes and then travel," declared one Deepak.

"More than indecent, it is unfair to the people around. Even with a 100% degree of care, one would not want the shoe sole/shoes to be accidentally touching them. So, yeah, go barefoot but carry a shoe bag! It's a reasonable ask," wrote Gaurav Mishra.

"Kudos to BMRCL for enforcing such things. We, as responsible citizens, should know civic sense and teach others as well. Nobody wants to stand next to smelly shoes."

Many users highlighted the lack of civic sense in the "shoeless drama."

"I am thankful to BMRCL for trying to teach u some sense. It's people like you who make public transport unbearable for many," said Sudeep V.

KSRTC rolls out 115 new buses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: KSRTC Friday launched 45 Karnataka Sarige buses and 70 Pallakki services as part of its International Women's Day celebrations.

The buses will operate to Udupi, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru, Agumbe, Raichur, Jamakhandi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Panaji and Madurai, among other destinations.

KSRTC said 805 new Karnataka Sarige and city buses will be inducted into the fleet over the next three months.

During the event, Shubha V, a Padma Shri awardee who developed Drishti, India's first homegrown runway visibility system, was felicitated.

TDR scam: ED names realty company director

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Enforcement Directorate sleuths filed a prosecution complaint in transferable development rights (TDR) scam, allegedly involving Valmark Realty Holdings Private Ltd (VRHPL) director and 19 other accused, including then BBMP employees.

The case was probed by ED based on the FIR registered by then Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in 2019, stating that VRHPL director **Ratan Lath** obtained development right certificates (DRCs) and sold TDRs to real estate companies and individuals, making an illegal profit of nearly Rs 27.7 crore.

In a press release, ED said TDR brokers K Suresh, K Gautham and associates conspired with previous land owners and some BBMP officials to obtain TDR from the Palike by concealing that the properties were already sold and by falsely valuing them.

CIVIC AGENCY STAFFERS ACCUSED

Earlier, ED conducted searches on nine premises, including the office of VRHPL, its director and certain builders, brokers and fake TDR applicants, which revealed the role of TDR brokers and previous owners.

Investigation disclosed a concerted conspiracy whereby brokers BS Surendranath, K Gautham and K Suresh, acting with VRHPL and BBMP officials, procured mutation of record of rights, tenancy and crops (RTCs) in favour of a land owner's heirs despite the land at Kowdenahalli (east Bengaluru) long being converted into a revenue layout with numerous third-party purchasers in possession. Agreements and general powers of attorney were allegedly used to initiate administrative processes, following which spot mahazars and building valuations were prepared, and the land was treated as agricultural for the purpose of issuing development rights.

Quoting another case, the agency said K Suresh and K Gautham, along with associates, approached individuals, identified as Muniraju and Srinivas, and entered into agreements to obtain TDR benefits even though they were no longer legitimate owners of the land. Powers of attorney were subsequently registered at the sub-registrar's office, Indiranagar, to facilitate procurement of TDR from BBMP.

It was revealed that the land was already sold and remained vacant without any eligible structure for TDR benefits, and that a building located in a neighbouring survey number was falsely projected as being situated within the land concerned.

Internal quota faultline splits Dalit ministers ahead of special meet

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Chethan Shivakumar

LAW BREAKERS: Cars of officials and legislators parked on a footpath at Vidhana Soudha, forcing people to walk on the road on Friday

Bengaluru: The simmering tussle between Scheduled Caste Right and Left sects over internal reservation has widened faultlines within chief minister Siddaramaiah's cabinet, placing the govt in a tight corner ahead of a crucial decision on filling thousands of vacancies.

Differences have surfaced within Congress, with ministers from Left and Right sects taking divergent positions on how the quota should be distributed. Pressure is set to intensify, as both sects have announced street protests over the next week. Groups representing the Right sect are planning a massive rally on March 26, a day before the special cabinet meeting to thrash out the issue.

Ministers identified with the Left sect, including KH Muniyappa (food and civil supplies) and RB Thimmapur (excise), had publicly raised concerns over the quota formula. On the other hand, ministers associated with the Right sect, including G Parameshwara (home) and Priyank Kharge (IT-BT and RDPR), have conveyed their reservations to the CM.

The disagreement has complicated the govt's plan to fill some 56,000 govt vacancies under the existing reservation framework — a reduced 15% quota. Sources say the recruitment process cannot move forward unless the dispute is resolved. "Pressure on the govt is high. We have to ensure consensus before proceeding," said one minister.

The divide has now prompted a group of ministers from the Right sect to seek an audience with the CM on Monday evening. The ministers, including representatives from Bhovi and Lambani communities in the cabinet, are expected to press for a clear formula.

"If the CM does not agree to a formula where quota is equally distributed between both sects, then the Right sect ministers will likely boycott the special cabinet meeting," said a minister.

The govt is understood to be examining a matrix under which Right and Left sects would get 5.5% each, while Bhovi, Lambani, Korcha and Korma communities would together receive 3%, and the remaining 1% would go to 59 of the most backward SC communities.

But that proposal has already drawn objections. Kannada and culture minister Shivaraj Tangadagi reportedly demanded 4% reservation for the four "touchable" communities.

Dispute over roster system

Dalit Sangharsh Samiti activists say rifts within the govt are linked not only to the reservation formula but also to the existing roster system governing recruitment.

Senior DSS leaders say the present roster structure has led to resentment among many SC sub-groups. "While everyone has agreed upon internal reservation, the prevailing roster system for SC groups has created massive unrest," said DSS convenor Indhudhar Honnapura. He said the organisation is attempting to mediate the dispute and has proposed an alternative framework to the chief minister.

Implement quota or face protests: BJP

BJP warned Friday of a statewide agitation if the govt fails to implement internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in line with the Justice Nagamohan Das Committee report and directions of the Supreme Court. Former CM and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai said there was no need for a special cabinet meeting to implement the measure. Bommai accused the govt of being "unjust" to SCs and STs and alleged that nearly Rs 60,000 crore earmarked for their welfare had been diverted. He also claimed that Rs 441 crore meant for OBC welfare was used for the caste census

BJP moves to close ranks ahead of assembly bypolls

Times News Network

IANS

ALL IS WELL: BJP state president BY Vijayendra, general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal and opposition leader R Ashoka after the core committee meeting in Bengaluru on Friday. Vijayendra said he met with disgruntled members in Davanagere and pacified them

Bengaluru: Karnataka BJP's core committee met Friday to deliberate on potential candidates for the upcoming byelections to Davanagere South and Bagalkot assembly constituencies, with the state unit expected to soon send a shortlist to the party high command.

Senior functionaries including national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, in charge of Karnataka, and Union minister Pralhad Joshi attended the meeting. State BJP president BY Vijayendra said the names discussed would be forwarded to the central leadership and the parliamentary committee will take a final call.

"Small differences that had cropped up, especially related to Davanagere South, have been ironed out," Vijayendra said. "We have reached out to those who were disgruntled. We have all resolved to fight the bypolls unitedly and win both seats."

The Davanagere district unit had witnessed factional tension after Vijayendra took over as state president in Nov 2023. Former MP GM Siddeshwar had complained against Vijayendra and his father BS Yediyurappa, alleging they engineered his defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Vijayendra visited Davanagere earlier this month and met Siddeshwar and his supporters. "We will all work together and ensure victory for the candidate that is chosen," Siddeshwar said.

Davanagere South seat fell vacant after the death of Shamanur Shivashankarappa, incumbent MLA from Congress. BJP is aiming to wrest the seat. BG Ajay Kumar, who lost to Shivashankarappa in the 2023 elections, Yashwant Rao Jadav, Das Kariyappa, Rajanahalli Shivakumar and D Shivakumar are among probable contenders.

The Bagalkot bypoll was triggered by the death of Congress' HY Meti. Former MLA Veeranna Charantimath and MLC PH Poojar are among those seeking the BJP ticket.

Congress politicising LPG issue, says Bommai

Former CM and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai said Congress and other opposition parties are trying to politicise the LPG shortage issue. He said the West Asia conflict has created problems worldwide and that there will be no LPG shortage if people do not panic. Bommai said the problem exists in several states. He said LPG is impoted from Qatar and other GCC countries and since supply lines have been disrupted, India has established connections with four or five other countries.

MB Patil says K'taka to have its own civil aviation policy

Times News Network

Bengaluru: The state is preparing its own civil aviation policy which will cover multiple aspects of the sector, infrastructure development minister **MB Patil** told the assembly Friday.

To a question from BJP's G Janardhana Reddy on the proposed Ballari airport, Patil said CM Siddaramaiah will soon chair a meeting of public representatives from Ballari, Vijayanagara and Koppal districts to finalise the location. He insisted airport projects must be both feasible and viable.

"We build airports, but they shut down after three years," Patil said. "This is the scene across the country. So, the CM and I met the civil aviation minister with a request that the UDAN scheme be extended to five years from the present three, and that for the subsequent five years the Centre and the state should equally support operational costs."

Patil said he expects a resolution since he said the Centre is thinking on similar lines. "It may not be exactly what we have sought but there will be a resolution." Meanwhile, he said, his infrastructure development department will also form its own policy. "Two other states — Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh — have done it. The policy will offer clarity on issues like the state's share and bulk amount sought by international airlines among others," he said.

On building an airport in Ballari, he said KIADB has identified two sites measuring 800 acres and 1,200 acres. "Land acquisition and compensation alone would cost nearly as much as the airport project itself," he said. "Therefore, that option is not practically feasible. The matter will ultimately be finalised at the meeting chaired by the CM."

He also cautioned against planning airports too close to each other, citing the 70km between Hubballi and Belagavi airports.

Support Yathindra just as you backed me, Siddaramaiah says in Varuna

Times News Network

SR Madhusudhan

SUCCESSION PLAN? Locals gave chief minister Siddaramaiah and his son MLC Yathindra a grand welcome during their visit to Beereshwara Swamy temple in Mysuru district on Friday

Mysuru: Amid speculation that he could be replaced as chief minister after the budget session of the legislature, Siddaramaiah Friday urged people of his constituency — Varun in Mysuru — to support his son Yathindra just as they supported him, even while insisting that he will continue in politics "till his last breath".

After attending the consecration ceremony of Sri Beereshwara Swamy Temple at Varakodu on the outskirts of Mysuru, Siddaramaiah told the gathering that despite victories and defeats in his political career spanning five decades, he "never forgets to serve the public".

"My political career began in 1978, and I received immense public support," he said. "From then on, people of Chamundeshwari (his earlier constituency) and Varuna assembly constituencies continuously supported me. Guided by my mentors, I received an education and the opportunity to serve people as a lawyer and politician. With the blessings of the people here, I had the opportunity to serve as CM and present the state budget 17 times. The contribution of people from Mysuru to my political life is immense and will not be forgotten."

Siddaramaiah also said his MLC son Yathindra works tirelessly to develop Varuna constituency. "I will fulfil all the work he suggests from a development perspective. Just as you supported me, you must also support Yathindra in future. I am confident you will," Siddaramaiah said.

TOI

PUT UP OR... DK Shivakumar makes a point during discussions on the budget

Move resolution on guarantees, DKS dares BJP

Bengaluru: Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar challenged BJP to move a resolution in the assembly, formally demanding the govt withdraw or reconsider its guarantee schemes.

Speaking during the discussion on the budget Friday, he said BJP should pass a resolution at the party level and place it before the House so that the issue can be openly debated.

The challenge came after BJP's Suresh Gowda suggested the govt scrap the schemes and prioritise development work. Responding to the remark, Shivakumar said: "Your remarks cannot be just a personal view. If this is your party's stand, pass an official resolution and place it in the assembly. Let us discuss it before the people."

He also urged the BJP to clarify its stand before the budget session ends. Referring to his recent visit to Assam, Shivakumar alleged BJP workers are the only beneficiaries of welfare schemes there. When Gowda said he had personally asked CM Siddaramaiah to reconsider the schemes, Shivakumar said such views expressed informally — whether by sitting next to the CM or during dinner meetings — cannot be considered official.

"If you want to withdraw them, you should formally say so in the assembly and it should be conveyed to the people and the state," said Shivakumar. TNN

ANI

SMOKE ON WATER: A delegation of tobacco growers from Karnataka, along with Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar and former PM HD Deve Gowda, met Union ministers HD Kumaraswamy and Piyush Goyal in New Delhi on Friday. Growers are distressed as the price of tobacco has crashed from Rs 320/kg to about Rs 250. Goyal promised to take steps to resume procurement, which has been suspended across several platforms in the state

SHORT TAKES

Speaker warns govt over delay in replies to MLAs

Assembly speaker UT Khader pulled up the govt for failing to respond to questions raised by MLAs, warning that his "gentleness" should not be mistaken for "weakness". His remarks came after transport minister Ramalinga Reddy tabled written replies to only 55 of the 131 listed questions. Khader said legislators expect proper replies to both starred and unstarred questions, pointing out ministers have 10 days to respond. Opposition leader R Ashoka also criticised the govt, alleging ministers were "in a deep slumber". Deputy speaker Rudrappa Lamani promised a meeting with departments to resolve the issue.

Eight fee slabs proposed in new advertising bill

The govt tabled a new advertising policy via the Karnataka Municipalities and Certain Other Laws (amendment) bill, 2026, in the assembly, which proposes eight fee slabs based on advertisement board location, building, and type of hoarding. For instance, a non-illuminated hoarding, frame, post or structure will cost the agency Rs 10 for up to 1sqm to Rs 16 for every additional 2.5sqm or less. Similarly advertisements on vehicles carried or drawn by bullocks, horses or other animals shall cost Rs 60 for 5sqm and another Rs 50 for every additional 5sqm or less. The bill prohibits advertisements without written permission of the commissioner and gives powers to the municipalities to remove and demolish unauthorised advertisements.

Private bill tabled in legislative council to protect gold loan borrowers

Citizens who pledge gold during financial emergencies may soon receive stronger protection if a private member's bill tabled in the council becomes law. Congress' Ramesh Babu introduced The Karnataka Protection of Pledged Gold Borrowers bill, 2025, aimed at safeguarding borrowers who pledge gold ornaments with banks, non-banking financial companies and private finance institutions. Babu said the proposed legislation seeks to protect interests of borrowers and regulate the process followed by lenders while auctioning pledged ornaments. Lenders would be barred from auctioning pledged gold unless borrowers are given a minimum notice period of 180 days from the date of default. The provision is intended to provide borrowers adequate time to repay loans. The bill also proposes that auctions of pledged gold be conducted only through a govt-approved licenced auctioneer and in the presence of a representative of the local tahsildar or another officer authorised by the govt. Any surplus amount realised after deducting dues and auction expenses must be returned to the borrower within 15 days.

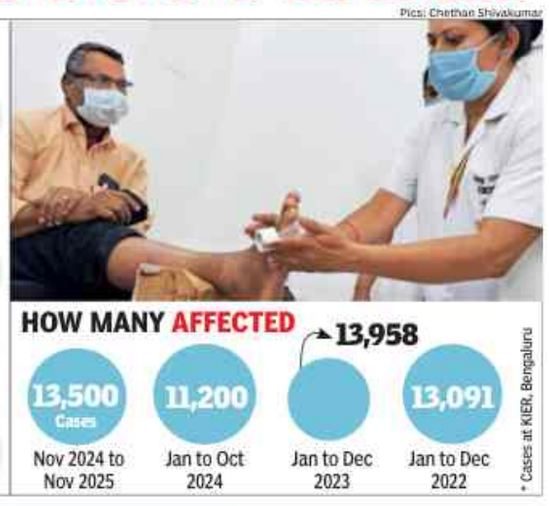
Legislator demands crackdown on 'begging mafia' in Bengaluru

Legislative council members alleged a begging mafia was operating in Bengaluru with K Govindaraj of Congress ponting out that despite an anti-begging law being in place for nearly five decades, the practice continues unabated across the state and especially in busy areas of Bengaluru. He told the House a well-organised network is allegedly behind the activity, with agents bringing people to the city and deploying them at different locations to seek alms. Govindaraj urged the govt to crack down on such networks. Responding to the issue, social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa said the govt will act immediately if credible evidence is provided. He also told the House he would instruct the Bengaluru city police commissioner to address complaints.

High sugar can get on your nerves
TREAT DIABETIC FOOT EARLY

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar



Bengaluru: There's an alarming rise in the burden of diabetic foot — a condition in which high blood sugar damages nerves and blood vessels in feet, leading to numbness, tingling, pain or a loss of feeling — in Karnataka year after year. The state has been reporting 11,000 to 13,500 cases at Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology and Research during a 12-month period in the past 3-4 years — an indication that early detection and treatment is key to preventing health complications.

Amid rising concerns, neuropathy (nerve damage) sets in even before diabetes diagnosis is made. Dr Belehalli Pavan, associate professor and head of podiatry department, Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology and Research, said both young and old patients were getting affected by diabetic foot. "When patients come to us, they present burning feet and get tested for diabetes. Neuropathy sets in before they even know it. We have studies showing that even in pre-diabetics — where the body fights the urge to become fully diabetic — metabolites produce changes that can lead to neuropathy. That is what we are trying to emphasise: these changes require attention."

Diabetic neuropathy is caused by prolonged high blood sugar levels from diabetes, most commonly affecting the legs and feet. "If blood circulation to the brain is affected, you get a stroke; to the heart, a heart attack; and to the foot, we call it a 'foot attack', which leads to a lot of foot infections, ulcers and amputations," said Dr Srinath Aswathiah, senior consultant, diabetes and endocrinology, Kauvery Hospital.

He noted lower awareness levels. "By the time we see a diabetic foot, it is already a burnt-out case. People perceive these problems as surgical issues and go to specialties like wound care, surgeons or orthopaedists." He stressed that a multi-disciplinary approach with endocrinologists would provide better results.

Nail hazards

One of the main problems is that of toenails. Senior citizens face difficulty in bending down and cutting their nails, which leads to the issue of ingrown nails. These infections are often not recognised by patients due to neuropathy. In some cases, nails thicken, leading to further trouble.

"Women getting nails shaped at salons risk this too, even younger patients. Infections lead to pus, then gangrene if untreated," said Dr Pramila Kalra, consultant endocrinologist, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

- Wash, inspect feet daily; keep them dry
- Never walk barefoot
- Wear properly fitting shoes after cleaning them
- Trim, file toenails
- Don't apply moisturiser between toes
- Maintain balanced, healthy diet
- Never remove calluses, warts or corns
- Don't neglect wounds; watch out for cracked feet

HOW MANY AFFECTED

Nov 2024 to Nov 2025	Jan to Oct 2024	Jan to Dec 2023	Jan to Dec 2022
13,500 Cases	11,200	13,958	13,091

* Cases at KIER, Bengaluru

OFFLOADING FOOTWEAR

Researchers applied for a second patent for 'dynamic offloading footwear' developed by KIER in collaboration with IISc. Unlike existing therapeutic shoes, it features a snapping mechanism that keeps feet balanced, speeds up healing, and prevents new injuries. "Our design uses arches that drop only under a certain threshold of pressure and snap back to avoid shifting pressure elsewhere," said Dr Pavan from KIER.

"The new arrays match a person's BMI. Offloading works only with the right array for their weight. This will cut calluses in diabetics. We are validating now — IISc transferred the tech to us," Dr Pavan explained.

"With the new patent, we want to change the design of footwear to be able to produce it in a regular manufacturing process to reduce costs. We want to go into mass production to ensure it is affordable to all," said GK Ananthasuresh, professor of mechanical engineering, IISc.

Man hacked 68 times, survives

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 41-year-old fruit vendor survived after his rivals hacked him 68 times with iron straps in the middle of a road.

Santosh R, alias Hotte Hasi, of Agrahara Dasarahalli off Magadi Road, was attacked allegedly by Suresh and his gang.

RAGE OVER MURDER

Santosh, a painter, is one of the accused facing charges of murdering Suresh's elder brother Mohan last year, police said.

The attack on Santosh took place in the evening of March 9. Earlier in the day, Santosh appeared before a court in Kollegal, where the murder case trial is ongoing. Santosh was walking towards his house after alighting from a BMTC bus.

"Suresh and his three associates, Sharat, Ravi and Manja, were consuming alcohol in a bar when Suresh saw Santosh. Memories of his murdered brother haunted him. Drawing the aides' attention to Santosh, Suresh told them the story. All four then decided to beat up Santosh. Two of them walked out with an empty beer bottle, while the other two took metal straps from a hardware shop. In all, they assaulted Santosh 68 times, danced when he fell, and fled. Santosh was shifted to a nearby hospital," an investigating officer said.

15 yrs of marriage no ground to junk suicide-abetment case: HC

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Merely because a couple was married for 15 years and two children were born from the wedlock, the criminal case of abetment to suicide and cruelty cannot be quashed against the husband.

The high court made the observation while dismissing a petition filed by Manigandan, a resident of Vidyaranyapura, north Bengaluru.

In his order, Justice M Nagaprasanna said the petitioner had to face trial as there were relevant materials to proceed against him as per the chargesheet.

Manigandan married BA Varsha in 2011 and the couple had two sons. In 2022, Manigandan left home following a quarrel with his wife. However, he came back after persuasion by elders. On October 18, 2025, a quarrel broke out between the couple over painting the house.

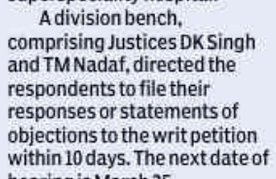
It is said that Manigandan physically abused his wife in front of their children and told her to leave the house. Immediately, Varsha rushed to the bedroom, locked it from inside and died by suicide. Her father, P Adinarayana, filed a police complaint, and Sections 85 (cruelty to married woman by husband or his relatives) and 108 (abetment to suicide) of BNS were invoked against Manigandan.

Challenging the same, Manigandan argued that he took Varsha to hospital as a caring husband.

Justice Nagaprasanna noted that merely because the husband and wife were married for 15 years and two children were born from the wedlock, it did not mean that the petitioner could be declared innocent by quashing the proceedings.

Notice to govt on varsity land transfer

Times News Network



Bengaluru: The high court Friday ordered notice to the state govt over a PIL on the transfer of a land on the campus of Govt Veterinary College at Hebbal.

Notices were also ordered to the college and Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Science University.

The Karnataka Veterinary Association, Bengaluru Veterinary College Alumni and two other organisations had challenged the Jan 8 govt order directing the transfer of four acres of KVAFSU land situated on the veterinary college campus for the construction of residential quarters for judges of the high court. The order also transferred another three acres of land to construct a superspeciality hospital.

A division bench, comprising Justices DK Singh and TM Nadaf, directed the respondents to file their responses or statements of objections to the writ petition within 10 days. The next date of hearing is March 25.

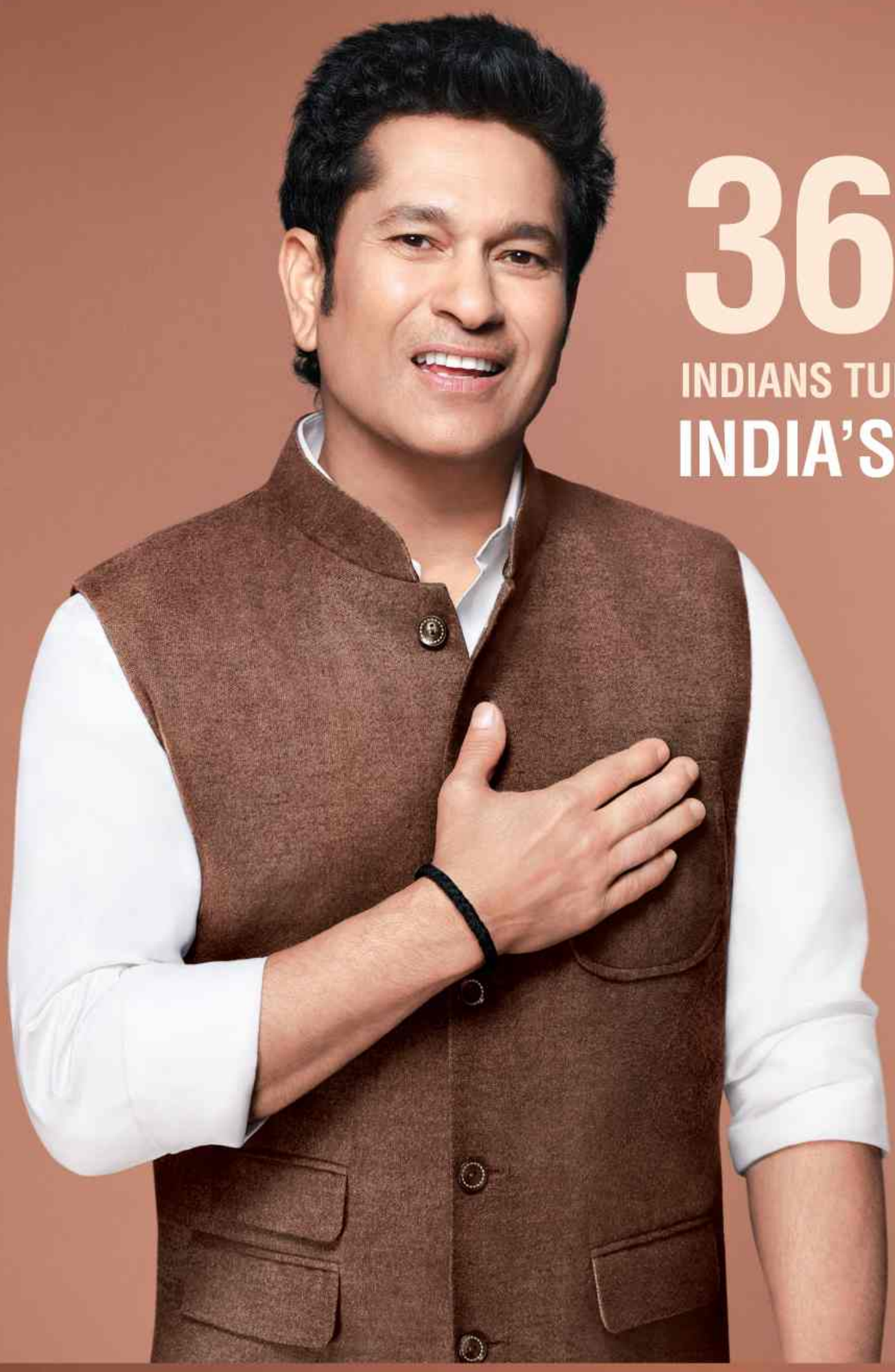
Special trains for Ugadi

Bengaluru: To clear extra rush of passengers during Ugadi festival next week, South Western Railway will run special express trains.

06503/06504 SMVT Bengaluru–Belagavi–SMVT Bengaluru Express Special will leve Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal, Bengaluru, at 7pm Wednesday and reach Belagavi at 7:35am the next day. The return train will leave Belagavi at 5:30pm on March 22 (Sunday) and reach Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal at 5am the next day.

06277/06278 Yeshwantpur–Vijayapura–Yeshwantpur Express Special will leave Yeshwantpur at 9.50pm Wednesday and reach Vijayapura at 9:45am the next day. The return train will depart from Vijayapura at 1:30pm on March 22 and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 12:30am the next day. 06267/06268 Yeshwantpur–Madgaon–Bengaluru Cantonment Express Special will depart from Yeshwantpur Wednesday noon and reach Madgaon at 6:45am the next day. The return train will depart from Madgaon at 11am Thursday and reach Bengaluru Cantt at 5:20am the next day. TNN

A TATA PRODUCT



36 LAKH

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

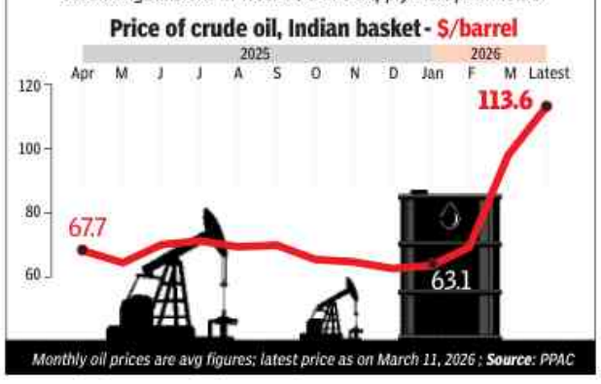
SUPPLY OF LPG, PETROL, DIESEL IN HARYANA IS FULLY NORMAL, SAYS CM NAYAB SINGH SAINI

MUMBAI MAYOR SAYS BMC ADDRESSES ALL CITIZENS' CONCERNS, NOT JUST DEEPIKA'S POLLUTION PLAINT

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

How West Asia war is pushing up oil prices for India

After hovering in the mid-$60s through late 2025, crude surged to $98 (month-average) in March and $113 by March 11, 2026, amid escalating tensions in West Asia and supply disruption fears



Monthly oil prices are avg figures; latest price as on March 11, 2026 ; **Source:** PPAC

Maha anti-conversion bill proposes 7-year jail, ₹1L fine

Makes Offence Non-Bailable, Prescribes ₹5L Fine For 'Mass Conversions'

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
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Mumbai: Maharashtra govt on Friday introduced a bill with stringent provisions to prevent religious conversions through coercion, fraud, or marriage if it involves inducement, coercion or deceit, joining other BJP-governed states that have enacted 'freedom of religion' laws.

The Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026, tabled in the legislative assembly for debate sets a prison term of seven years for persons "involved in unlawful conversions on the pretext of marriage" and a fine of Rs 1 lakh. Treating the offence as non-bailable, the bill makes it mandatory for an officer heading a police station to register a complaint.

Civil society bodies have opposed it, saying laws are being weaponised to create a climate of fear against inter-faith marriages.

The bill says any child born out of a marriage or a "relationship in the nature of a marriage" due to unlawful conversion shall be "deemed to belong to the religion of the mother before such marriage or relationship".

The bill tabled in assembly says 'forceful' and 'involuntary' religious conversions in the state are increasing. Civil society bodies have opposed the bill, saying laws are being weaponised to create a climate of fear against inter-faith marriages

It mandates that any person intending to convert, as well as any individual or institution organising a conversion ceremony, must give notice in a prescribed form at least 60 days in advance to the competent authority. Upon receiving this, the authority will display the details on the notice board of its office as well as at the office of the village panchayat or the local authority concerned. It will invite objections from the public within 30 days of its publication.

The bill requires that the converted person and individual or institution organising the ceremony submit a declaration to the authority within 21 days after the conversion. It allows relatives by blood, marriage or adoption to lodge an FIR if they suspect unlawful conversion.

The bill also prescribes a jail term of seven years along with a fine of Rs 5 lakh for those "involved" in mass conversions. Repeat individual offenders may get a jail sentence of 10 years and fine of Rs 5 lakh. Inducements that may be treated as illegal include gifts, employment, education, a better lifestyle or divine healing.

The burden of proof that a conversion was not carried out in violation of the provisions of the Act will lie on the person who caused, assisted or abetted the conversion.

The bill, described as draconian by critics, says "forceful" and "involuntary" religious conversions in the state are increasing. "The right to freedom of religion guaranteed under the Constitution of India is not absolute, but is subject to public order, morality, health and to other provisions of Part III of the Constitution relating to the fundamental rights of citizens," says the bill.

Dolphy D'Souza of The Bombay Catholic Sabha said, "We are very disappointed that the bill was tabled without discussions with various stakeholders who are going to be affected. It takes away the right to one's conscience to follow the religion of their choice or marry a partner of their choice. We urge the opposition to raise their voices and also demand that it be referred to a select committee for discussion as some of the clauses are draconian, to say the least."

Legal challenges against anti-conversion laws by civil rights groups such as Citizens for Justice and Peace have been taken up by HCs in Karnataka, UP, Uttarakhand and MP. Sections of these laws have been stayed and states have gone before SC.

(Inputs by Vijay V Singh)

1st-year IIT-D student ends life on campus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A first-year BTech student of IIT-Delhi is suspected to have died by suicide on the campus on Thursday. According to police, preliminary investigation suggests depression may have led to the incident. No suicide note was recovered from the spot. Cops at Kishangarh police station received information about the incident around 8.35am Thursday. On reaching the spot, they discovered the body of the student in his room at New Vindhyachal Apartments on the campus. A doctor at IIT-Delhi Hospital examined him and declared him brought dead.

Preliminary inquiry revealed the student, aged 19, resided in the apartment with his mother, who had gone to her native place in Rajasthan on March 10. She last spoke with him over the phone on March 11, around 11pm. The following morning, when he did not respond to her calls, another resident opened the room with the help of security staff and discovered the youth had taken the extreme step.

Preliminary inquiry revealed the student, aged 19, resided in the apartment with his mom, who had gone to her native place on March 10

Crime and FSL teams inspected the scene. The student's father, whose statement was recorded by police, expressed no suspicion of foul play. The body was sent to Safdarjung Hospital for a post-mortem examination and handed over to the family.

Following the incident, the security officer of IIT-Delhi, citing a Supreme Court judgment from March 24, 2025, submitted a written complaint requesting registration of an FIR and a detailed investigation. A case under Section 108 BNS (abetment of suicide) was registered against unknown persons.

In a statement, IIT-Delhi expressed "deep sorrow over the tragic and untimely demise" of the student and stated Delhi Police are investigating the incident.

Oppn MPs move notice to remove CEC Kumar

Subodh Ghildiyal & Ambika Pandit | TNN

New Delhi: The joint opposition on Friday moved Parliament for removal of **Gyanesh Kumar** as chief election commissioner (CEC), a critical step that takes the anti-BJP camp's protest against the nationwide SIR and conduct of elections to the extreme limit that would further widen its already yawning chasm with the governing NDA. The removal notice comes just before EC announces schedule for assembly polls in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry, where key INDIA bloc members are pitted against BJP, as also against each other.

Opposition MPs submitted removal notices in both Houses of Parliament, with 130 Lok Sabha members and 63 from Rajya Sabha signing the petitions. The notices include not just INDIA bloc parties but also some Independent MPs and AAP which has been waging its own battle against EC, with grave allegations about Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Delhi. AAP had walked out of the bloc after the 2024 LS polls.

Sources in the INDIA bloc said the petitions has seven charges against Kumar, chiefly alleged "partisan and discriminatory conduct in office", "deliberate obstruction of investigation of electoral fraud", "mass disenfranchisement of voters", and "misbehaviour". The opposition has also raised the issue SIR was conducted for the 2025 Bihar polls and forthcoming elections in states like West Bengal, and CEC's partial conduct towards a political party, they said.

The opposition has been accusing EC of seeking to help BJP through SIR. CEC's removal notice is a TMC initiative, with West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee having first made the demand during Budget session's first leg in Feb. The move came to fruition after Mamata led a bellicose multiple-day protest in Kolkata.

Process for removing CEC is similar to that of a Supreme Court judge — incumbent can be removed only on "grounds of proven misbehaviour or incapacity". According to Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, once motion to remove a judge is admitted in LS or RS, speaker or chairman will constitute a three-member committee to probe the grounds.

FASTag Annual Pass to cost ₹3,075 from Apr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The cost of FASTag Annual Pass for private vehicles will increase by 2.5% to Rs 3,075 from April 1. At present, the annual pass costs Rs 3,000, which allows cars to cross 200 toll plazas without stopping. The pass can be recharged multiple times in a year. Officials said the provision for annual revision of the price was mentioned when the FASTag Annual Pass was notified by the road transport ministry.

M'rashtra min wants int'l schools to teach Marathi

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: School education minister **Dada Bhuse** on Friday said in the assembly that teaching Marathi was compulsory in all schools across the state, including international schools, ICSE, CBSE and Urdu-medium schools.

Bhuse said complaints about international schools not teaching Marathi will be investigated and schools will be given directions to start teaching Marathi. Bhuse said if they don't comply with govt directions, then action will be taken against them and their permissions will be revoked.

Bhuse was replying to queries by Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Harun Khan. Replying to a query by BJP MLA Ashish Deshmukh, Bhuse said in his written reply that in line with the National Education Policy, 2020, an expert committee constituted under the chairmanship of Narendra Jadhav has submitted its report to the government on Feb 4 to determine a trilingual policy in schools in the state.

"The report submitted by the committee will be subject to approval by the state cabinet and further action will be taken as per the approval given by the cabinet," Bhuse said in his written reply.

Gujarat set to become majority urban by 2027

Himanshu.Kaushik
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Nine new municipal corporations in less than 15 years. City limits being redrawn. Satellite townships on the planning board. The administrative scramble reveals Gujarat's new reality before the numbers could: the state is rapidly outgrowing its rural identity.

Gujarat is now on track to become predominantly urban by next year, with projections showing that more than half its population will live in the cities for the first time.

According to the state govt's estimates in Socio-Economic Review 2025-26, Gujarat's total population is expected to reach 7.48 crore in 2027, with 3.79 crore residing in urban areas and 3.69 crore in rural areas. That would place the urban share at 50.69%, marking a new turn in the state's demographic trajectory. The shift has been building for decades, urban planners say.

In the 2011 Census, Gujarat's urban population stood at 42.6%, already well above India's 31.14%.

SANJAY GANDHI POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
Raebareli Road, Lucknow-226014 (U.P.)
Telephone : 0522-2494038, 2494095
E-mail id : sgpgicontractcell@gmail.com, website:- www.sgpgims.org.in

PRE BID MEETING NOTICE

Interested private partners are invited for Pre-Bid meeting for **"Establishment of A Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Facility on Public Private Partnership Basis" in Core Lab**, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow. The Proposals and Bid document are to be discussed in the presence of Committee members and the interested private partners is a meeting scheduled to be held on 27.03.2026 (Friday) at 11:00 AM in e-tumor board room, 2nd Floor, Telemedicine Department, SGPGIMS, Lucknow.

Interest partners may please visit the Institutes website:- **www.sgpgims.org.in** for perusal and download Bid document. In case of any query please contact Prof. Khaliqur Rahman, Mobile-8004904706. The interested private partners may participate in meeting as per above schedule along with their proposals.

Advt. No.1/58/Contract Cell/NGS Facility Core Lab/2025-26 DIRECTOR

RAJASTHAN STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Rajasthan Government Undertaking)
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur- 302005, Phone- 0141-2227751, 4593201
E-mail: riico@riico.co.in Website-riico.rajasthan.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

RIICO invites sealed tenders/bids through eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for the following works/ services/supply etc.

Sr. No.	Office & Type of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.in Lacs)
1.	**Unit Head, Balotra**	
1.1	Development of Industrial Area Borawas Phase-II, Balotra. **UBN-RDC2526WLOB01743**	6536.08
2.	**Unit Head, EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur**	
2.1	P&F Overhead Gantry Board, Construction of CC Road, Widening of BT Road, Paved Shoulders with Tiles, Improvement of Drains at Residential Colony, Construction of Footpath and Development of HT Corridor and Open Land at I/A Ramchandrapura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2526WLOB01785**	2060.00
2.2	Regular Operation and Maintenance of Industrial Area EPIP Sitapura Ph I to IV, Institutional Area, SEZ Ph I & II, Ramchandrapura, Prahladpura and Residential Colonies under Unit Office EPIP Sitapura, Jaipur. **UBN-RDC2526WLOB01786**	1017.88
3.	**Unit Head, Bhiwadi-I**	
3.1	Covering of Drains at Industrial Area Kaharani. **UBN-RDC2526WLOB01812**	1782.98
4.	**Unit Head, Alwar**	
4.1	Routine Works related to Operation & Maintenance of Industrial Area MIA, MIA (Extn.), South East Zone & Extn., Agro Food Park Alwar. **UBN-RDC25265LOB01831**	577.33
5.	**Unit Head, Ghiloth**	
5.1	Strengthening & Re-Carpeting of BT Roads at Industrial Area Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2526WLOB01741**	839.79
5.2	Providing and Fixing of Reinforced Ferro Cement Covers on Open Drains at Industrial Area Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2526WLOB01742**	1283.96
5.3	Construction of RCC Median Walls in Place of Masonry Walls on Remaining Portion of Link-Road from NH-48 to Industrial Area Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01744**	282.30
5.4	Construction of Boundary Wall around Existing Plantation Area at Industrial Area Ghiloth. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01745**	215.45
6.	**Unit Head, Jaipur(Rural)**	
6.1	Providing and Fixing of Street Light and High Mast Light at Industrial Area Kunjbiharipura. **UBN-RDC2526WLOB01770**	673.99
7.	**Unit Head, Ajmer**	
7.1	Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Sarwar. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01784**	229.84
7.2	Construction of Missing Link Road, Drain and Boundary Wall along the Periphery of Green Belt at Industrial Area Ajaymeru Palra. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01808**	360.77
7.3	Providing, Laying & Shifting of Power Line in Sathana, Ajmer. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01809**	205.01
8.	**Unit Head, Aburoad**	
8.1	Survey and Demarcation Work, Construction of CC Road in Industrial Area and Residential Colony at Industrial Area Sirohi Road, Distt. Sirohi, Unit-Abu Road. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01817**	204.88
9.	**Unit Head, Jalore**	
9.1	Upgradation of Infrastructure at Industrial Area Phase-III Jalore. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01818**	427.22
10.	**Unit Head, Neemrana**	
10.1	Construction of Footpath at I/A EPIP and Neemrana Ph-I. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01820**	480.20
11.	**Unit Head, Sawai Madhopur**	
11.1	Development of New Industrial Area Stone Park Mataipur Phase-III. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01816**	311.23
12.	**Unit Head, Sriganganagar**	
12.1	Rejuvenation, Upgradation, Augmentation and Rehabilitation of Water Supply System at Industrial Area Agro Food Park & O & M of Water Supply Scheme during Maintenance Phase & After 5 Year Operation & Maintenance of Water Supply Scheme Agro Food Park & 13 LNP, Sriganganagar. **UBN-RDC2526WSOB01847**	281.05

Bidders/contractors may download and submit tender online. Detailed information of tenders and any kind of corrigendum/ date extension, if any in future, may be seen by bidders on websites riico.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
For queries please contact: GM (Civil) Ph. 0141-4593214 Raj.Samwad/C/25/22430

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka
4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928

No. RGUHSB/ENG/WF/12/2025 (102991) Date: 13/03/2026

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Empanelment of Architectural Consultant/Design Consultants for Preparation of Detailed Project Report and Project Management Consultancy service for the works undertaken by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS). More details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2025-26/SE0031/Call-2

1	Tender document available for downloaded	13-03-2026, 12:04 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	20-03-2026, 11:30 Hrs.
3	Last date for Receipt of Tender	30-03-2026, 17:30 Hrs.
4	Opening of Technical Bid	01-04-2026, 11:30 Hrs.
5	Opening of Financial Bid	04-04-2026, 11:30 Hrs.
6	Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPR/CP/6235/AKAR/2025-26

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagara East, Bengaluru - 560 011
Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222
E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com

No. SGITO/E-Auction/FD/28/2025-26 Date: 13-03-2026

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Inviting E-Auction for Interest rate bids on Investment of Surplus Funds in Fixed Deposit Non Callable for one year through E-Portal, Government of Karnataka.

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Bengaluru is inviting competitive rate of interest through e-bidding on the KPPP Portal of Govt. of Karnataka from the Regional / Zonal / Head Offices of the Nationalized banks for Fixed / Term Deposits of 'Surplus funds' for the following.

1) **Rs.8,09,04,203-00** (Rupees Eight Crores Nine Lakhs Four Thousand Two Hundred Three only) for one year **(Non Callable)**
2) **Rs.3,05,22,317-00** (Rupees Three Crores Five Lakhs Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventeen only) for one year **(Non Callable)**
3) **Rs.5,00,00,000-00** (Rupees Five Crores only) for one year **(Non Callable)**
4) **Rs. 5,61,46,327-00** (Rupees Five Crores Sixty one Lakhs Forty Six Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty Seven only) for one year **(Non Callable)**

E-Auction documents should be submitted electronically through e-Procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** and last date for applying is on **27-03-2026** before **16:00** Hrs. For further information please contact, office of the Director during office hours.

Sd/-
Director,
Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics

DIPR/SI/6226/2025-26

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813.
Website : www.pspcl.in
GURU HARGOBIND THERMAL PLANT, LEHRA MOHABBAT
GSTIN 03AAFCP5120Q1ZC
Tender Enquiry No. 681/GHTP/EMC/GMMC-27/Vol-41 Dated : 11-03-2026

Periodical, preventive, breakdown & shutdown maintenance and annual overhauling of 2x210MW & 2x250MW Turbo generator (Electrical Works), HT & LT Motors in main plant area, 16.50 KV, 15.75 KV, 6.6 KV & 415 V Bus ducts, EOT Cranes/ Hoists (Electrical Works) and/or etc. and operation & general cleanliness of Lifts/ Elevators of GHTP Stage-I & II GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, District: Bathinda, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of Two years on lump-sum basis.

Detailed NIT and tender specification can be downloaded from website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from dated 12-03-2026 onwards.

GHTP-29/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2025-26/9448

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Department of Commercial Taxes)
Commercial Tax Department, Office of the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Admn) Divisional Goods and Service Taxes Office-6, K.I.A.D.B Bld., 3rd Floor, 4th Phase, 14th Cross, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-58, Ph.No: 080-28363927.

No:JCCT6-TEND0TA/1/2026 Date:12-03-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited separately as per K.T.P.P Act 1999 from reputed **manpower service providers to provide 21 (Twenty One) Technical Analyst's services** to the office of the Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (A), Divisional Goods and Service Taxes Office-6, K.I.A.D.B Building, 3rd floor, 14th Cross, 4th Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560 058 for the period of one year from **01-04-2026.**

Last date to apply for tender is **20-03-2026 within 5.30 p.m.**

For details visit kppp website at:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://gst.kar.nic.in

Sd/- Joint Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Admn.),
DGSTO-6, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO6241/25-26

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Mille- Tank Bed Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No.: DOME\WCOE_JEE\CR-91/2025-26 Date: 13-03-2026

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities "For the academic year **2026-27**, in the **Pre-University Colleges functioning under the Directorate of Minorities**, in order to provide **IIT-JEE (Mains & Advanced) coaching and other training programs.** Interested & eligible bidders/institutes can apply through e-Procurement portal. The schedule of tender will be as follows.

Sl. No.	No. of Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	13.03.2026
2.	Tender Amount:	Rs. 900.00 Lakhs.
3.	EMD Amount:	Rs.13,50,000/-
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	02.04.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	28.04.2026 by 5:30 p.m.
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	12.05.2026 at 11:30 a.m.
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	18.05.2026 at 11:30 a.m. (Tentative)
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	080-22535902 080-22535912

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/ AE-1 /2025-26/4244 Date:-10.03.2026

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the works notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through KPP Portal, following the link **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)	Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
	Works Reserved for SC Category				
1	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34221	60.00		PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34353	5.00
	Works Reserved for 2A- Category				
3	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT32512	100.00			
	General Works				
4	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33225	100.00	8	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33944	100.00
5	PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT33306	250.00	9	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34050	25.00
6	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT32988	300.00	10	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30787/CALL-2	70.00
7	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT8245	150.00			

1.Quarries of Tender On: **As Per kppp Portal.** 2.Last Date of Tender Submission On: **20.03.2026 @ 16.00 Hours.** 3.Tender Opening date On: **23.03.2026 @ 10.30 Hours.** 4.Financial Bid Opening Date: **As Per kppp Portal.**

Note: If any changes either in Tender date, Retender or any other conditions , Tenderers shall be viewed in kppp Portal, No Separate Advertisement / Notification will be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/593

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EMI ₹3,791

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Whirlpool
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HSR-WANTED-BDA-SITES And Houses 50 x 80 and 40 x 60 and 30 x 40 & 20 x 30 For Immediate Settlement owner and Agent . Call : 93438 27680.

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SALE Commercial 100x150 N/E Corner Near Ashok Pillar Main Road jayanagar 1st Block 3 Side Road Both Side 100feet Rd call: 9611844667 / 8123515830

FOR SALE SITES And 3BHK Flat At Jayanagar 4th & 5th Block PRIME LOCATION Genuine Buyers Only Contact 9844732229

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JP Ngr 1st Ph, 2,040 SFt, BDA Aprvd, SE corner site, Navoday Lyt, Beside Banashankari Metro & behind Sobha Dew flower Apt.16500/Sft: 9909553317

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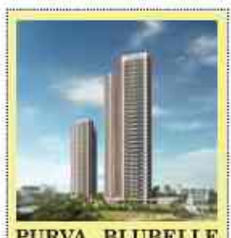

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YELAHANKA Commercial retail space for sale, with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3000sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space sale: 8088330330

FOR Sale. Fully Furnished Off Space 1300 Sqft At Oxford Palazzo, 4th Flr, Rustam Baug, Road No 1. Old Airport Road Banglore. Call: 9371019944

SAHAKARNAGAR Commercial retail space sale, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

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Bill: Dist magistrate will certify trans identity

▶ Continued from page 1

It underlines that a transgender person "shall not include, nor shall ever have been so included, persons with different sexual orientations and self-perceived sexual identities".

"The protection and benefits that are provided under the Act are vast in nature, and therefore, care has to be taken that such identification cannot be extended on the basis of any acquirable characteristics or personal choice or claimed self-perceived identity of an individual," it added.

The govt has justified the changes. "The purpose of the Act was to protect a specified class of persons socially and culturally known as transgender people who face societal discrimination of an extreme and oppressive nature," says the statement of objects of the bill. "The purpose was and is not to protect each and every class of persons with various gender identities, self-perceived sex, gender identities or gender fluidities," it added.

The bill also proposes to create specific offences with graded punishments that reflect the gravity of the harm, the irreversibility of the injury, and the particular vulnerability of child victims.

A medical board headed by chief medical officer has been introduced in the bill, and if passed in the current form, the district magistrate will, going forward, issue a certificate of transgender identity, after examining the recommendation of the medical board cited as "authority" to be constituted by the central or state govts.

The bill defines a trans person as the one "having such socio-cultural identities as 'kinner', 'hijra', 'aravani' and 'jogta', or eunuch, or a person with intersex variations or a person who, at birth, has a congenital variation in one or more sex characteristics as compared to male or female development: primary sexual characteristics; external genitalia, chromosomal patterns, gonadal development endogenous hormone production or response."

The bill said the current law also prohibits discrimination and abuse against transgender persons but its penal provision address only general wrongs and criminal offences and prescribes a maximum of two years' imprisonment. The proposed amendments make room for stricter penalties and punishments.

"Also, any person or child who has been, by force, allurement, inducement, deceit or undue influence, either with or without consent, compelled to assume, adopt, or outwardly present a transgender identity, by mutilation, emasculation, castration, amputation, or any surgical, chemical, or hormonal procedure or otherwise will be included in the definition.

For instance, imprisonment ranging from six months to two years have been prescribed for crimes ranging from compelling a transgender person to indulge in the act of forced or bonded labour, denial of the right of passage to a public place to forcing a trans person to leave home or village. If a trans person is kidnaped and suffers mutilation, castration or any surgical, chemical, or hormonal procedure; or permanent or severe injury with the intent of compelling the person to adopt or outwardly present a transgender identity against their will, the offence shall be punishable with 10 years to life imprisonment.

FIR against Uttarakhand forest official after mining mafia plaint, HC raps govt

Pankul.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: Uttarakhand high court Friday came down heavily on state govt and police for registering an FIR against a forest department official based on a complaint filed by an alleged mining mafia member. The court ordered the suspension of the officer who registered the FIR and directed the transfer of the entire staff of Vikas Nagar police station.

A single bench of Justice Rakesh Thaplilyal was hearing a petition filed by Rajeev Nayan Nautiyal, sub-divisional forest officer of Kalsi, and noted that an FIR was lodged against him at 12.15am on 26 Feb at Vikas Nagar police station following a complaint by Manish Chauhan, alleged to be linked with illegal mining operations.

Calling the circumstances "very strange", it questioned the state's handling of the case and remarked, "What exactly is going on here? You are unable to even protect your own official." The HC directed the DGP and SSP to ensure the transfer of the entire police station staff and ordered a probe into possible collusion with the mining mafia.

"Who is colluding with the mining mafia?" the bench asked, while emphasising that mining activities in the region must cease completely and directed the state counsel to obtain necessary instructions from the govt in this regard.

It also sought an explanation from the SHO on why an FIR was registered against Nautiyal despite him having filed a complaint against the mining mafia in Dec last year.

It directed that Nautiyal should not be arrested in connection with the FIR and scheduled the next hearing for Monday.

CSK: Won't use Rajinikanth film songs for promotions

Sureshkumar.k
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Fans of the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will no longer be greeted by songs and background scores from Rajinikanth films, as the team told the Madras high court that it would desist from using music tracks from the films 'Jailer', 'Jailer 2' and 'Coolie'.

The submission was made in response to a copyright infringement plea filed by Sun TV Network, seeking to restrain CSK from using the songs and music owned by it in the team's promotional content uploaded on its official social media pages.

According to Sun TV Network, its copyrighted content, including Harbour Gang BGM from the film 'Coolie', Hukum Reloaded from 'Jailer 2', the Hukum song, and Rajini's dialogues from the film 'Jailer', were used by CSK. It sought an injunction on use of the songs in CSK's promos, and a direction to the team to pay Rs 1 crore in damages for copyright infringement.

Make school counsellors must to assist abuse survivors: Murty

New Delhi: Nominated Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty on Friday called for making counsellors mandatory in schools to help children who faced sexual offences.

Participating in a discussion on private member bill 'The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024' moved by Fauzia Khan (NCP-SCP) on February 7, 2025, Murty also suggested cancellation of registration for schools which do not have such counsellors. She said survivors of childhood sexual offences want assurance that "it is not your fault... and that assurance can be given by mother at home, or a teacher or a counsellor." Murty said it is someone "who will have the confidence of the child, who will address the issue because when such things happen, the child should have a friend or someone who can listen to the child and tell the child it is not your fault". PTI

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Auction Dates	Branch Auction Date 25 Mar 2026	District Auction Date 30 Mar 2026
Loan A/c Number	Base Branch	District 1 Contact
FEDGL0036 0016642, 0016731	ARAKALGUD - 9964260350	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL0414 0006979	ARASIKERE - 9620276545	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL0103 0021558	B H ROAD - 8904344610	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0136 0009107, 0009162	BELGAUM - 9538166084	BELGAUM - 9538166084
FEDGL0159 0013694, 0013734	BELUR - 9380453339	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL0051 0015036, 0015112, 0015116, 0015127	BYADGI - 8970590276	RANEBENNUR - 8904013982
FEDGL0102 0018683, 0018856	CALTEX CIRCLE - 9900291944	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0158 0026476, 0026501, 0026529, 0026997	CHENRAYAPATNA - 9739489738	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL0229 0011580, 0011588, 0011596	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL0420 0007548	GADAG - 9902373905	Gadag - 9902373905
FEDGL0094 0007487	GANGAVATHI - 9972317836	GANGAVATHI - 9972317836
FEDGL0046 0021173	GUBBI - 7760812077	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDBD0100 0000308	HAGARIBOMMANHALLI - 8197621828	HOSPET - 9743956995
FEDGL0104 0013097	HARAPPANAHALLI - 9945998329	DAVANGERE- 9110855606
FEDGL0022 0017446	HARIHAR - 8147533256	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL0157 0018646, 0018680, 0018687, 0018689	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL0181 0013894, 0013924	HAVERI - 8880914476	RANEBENNUR - 8904013982
FEDGL0059 0027076	HOLENARSIPURA - 9591033235	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL0412 0008918	HOSADURGA - 8105000953	Hosadurga - 8105000953
FEDGL0099 0011542, 0011580, 0011619, 0011625, 0011653	HOSPET - 9743956995	HOSPET - 9743956995
FEDGL0063 0011223	K R PETE - 9611852104	MANDYA - 8453194687
FEDGL0037 0007654	K R ROAD - 7829541516	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL0095 0011539, 0011594, 0011596, 0011640, 0011643	KAMPLI - 6361077968	CAR STREET BELLARY - 9535205038
FEDGL0591 0000067	KENGERI - 7483063537	BTM Layout - 9980764782
FEDGL0155 0010594	KOPIKAR ROAD - 8792207075	DHARWAD - 8152913405
FEDGL0403 0005226, 0005228	KOPPAL - 9980073958	GANGAVATHI - 9972317836
FEDGL0404 0009737, 0009789, 0009796, 0009961	KUDLIGI - 7760491423	HOSPET - 9743956995
FEDGL0121 0014605	KUNIGAL - 9738833176	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0407 0003989	LAXMESHWARA - 9902888271	Gadag - 9902373905
FEDGL0062 0014318, 0014394	MALEBENNUR - 8884276416	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL0174 0012611	MANDIMOHALLA - 9945657838	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356
FEDGL0064 0013218, 0013339	MUNDARGI - 9886453768	Gadag - 9902373905
FEDGL0392 0005241, 0005245	NELAMANGALA - 9108850892	BTM Layout - 9980764782
FEDGL0377 0014404, 0014447, 0014449, 0014455, 0014457, 0014470, 0014473, 0014525, 0014546, 0014597, 0016464	PAVAGADA - 9448386998	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0180 0027975	RAMANAGARA - 8197884697	RAMANAGARA - 8197884697
FEDGL0173 0009190	RAMASWAMY CIRCLE - 9620136356	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356
FEDGL0232 0013681, 0013691	RANEBENNUR - 8904013982	RANEBENNUR - 8904013982
FEDGL0183 0014237, 0014315	SHIMOGA - 9513242321	SHIMOGA - 9513242321
FEDGL0376 0014918, 0015055	SIRA - 9686864110	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0193 0009370, 0009401, 0009416, 0009420	SIRSI - 9845952878	SIRSI - 9845952878
FEDGL0013 0008408, 0008418	SULTHANPLYA - 9353708159	BTM Layout - 9980764782
FEDGL0415 0005853	TARIKERE - 9945524645	CHIKKAMAGALUR - 9164264697
FEDGL0047 0013231	TIPTUR - 9739894909	B H Road - 8904344610

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Dated : 14.03.2026
Place : Karnataka

For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

SC: Lawful course for bank was to accept deposits

▶ Continued from page 1

Even assuming that the OP Bank entertained any doubt or suspicion, the lawful course open to it was to accept the deposits, bring the funds within the formal banking channel and thereafter facilitate post-transaction reporting and investigation by the designated authorities," a bench of J Rajendra and A K Mendiratta said in its order.

The firm had deposited bank notes worth Rs 1.3 crore on various dates during demonetisation

"...This deprivation was not the result of any adjudication by a competent authority but flowed solely from the unilateral action of the Bank, despite the complainant's readiness and willingness to comply with all regulatory requirements. In view of the above, the bank is liable to compensate for the loss it caused to the complainant to the extent of the specified bank notes worth Rs.3,19,58,500," it said.

Procure Logistics Services Private Limited, had deposited bank notes worth Rs 1.3 crore on various dates during the demonetisation but was barred from making further deposits, leaving it with Rs 3.2 crore in unaccepted notes. Correspondence "shows that during the notified time window, the complainant had disclosed the availability of cash-in-hand with the firm as reflected in its audited accounts, furnished audited balance sheets of the preceding years to the officials of OP Bank and repeatedly sought to deposit the amounts. Evidently, this refusal was not based on any specific RBI or Govt Notifications, or any communicated deficiency in KYC or other statutory/procedural non-compliance," the commission said.

Top court warns petitioner against a third plea

▶ Continued from page 1

On Feb 24, 2023, SC had asked the govt to examine taking a policy decision on this issue after studying the need and the possible fallout of employers getting dissuaded to engage a large female workforce.

For petitioner S M Tripathi, senior advocate M R Shamshad said no action has been taken yet despite lapse of nearly three years.

Shamshad said Bihar had done it since 1992 and Karnataka has implemented it in schools. There are some private companies which have voluntarily implemented a menstrual leave policy for female workers.

The CJI said, "If they do it voluntarily, it is welcome. But the moment it is made compulsory, you do not know how much damage you will cause to their careers. Nobody will give them responsibilities. On the judicial side, day-to-day trials cannot be assigned to them."

The bench warned Tripathi of adverse order against him if he approached the court on this issue for a third time. His petitions, raising the same issue, were disposed of twice in Feb 2023 and July 2024.

In Feb 2023, Spain had become the first EU country to introduce menstrual or period leave of 3-5 days, salary for which would be paid by the govt.

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Time: 10:00 to 17:00
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COURT NOTICE

COURT NOTICE
Before the Honourable Family Court Ernakulam
Petitioner: Merilyn Sunny, 15 D, Rain Woods Apartments, Sundaragiri Road, Near St. Pius church Kalamassery P.O. Ernakulam District. Keralam. 683104
Respondent: Mr.Dhiraj Kumar. No: 116, Annapillai Street Sowcarpet Chennai - 60001, Presently residing at No: D 602 Daddy's Elixir Apartment near Huskur fruit Market. Electronic city, Bangalore 560100
Notice is hereby given to the Respondent above named that the above case is posted on **9/4/2026** for his appearance. If the respondent doesn't appear before the Hon'ble Family court at Ernakulam at **11.00 AM** on that day, either personally or through pleader, the case will be heard and disposed in his absence.
Dated 14th day of March 2026
Adv. Renil Anto Kandamkulathy
Counsel for the Petitioner

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jayakirthi Reddy Chandrashekar Reddy, also known as Jayakirthi Reddy C, S/o Chandrashekar Reddy R, residing at Flat No.101, Primerio, 3rd B Cross, 4th Main Road, Lal Bahadur Nagar, Bengaluru, do hereby change my name from Jayakirthi Reddy Chandrashekar Reddy to Jayakirthi Reddy for all future purposes. via an affidavit dated 12.03.2026, sworn before Notary Uday Kumar K, at Bangalore

I, Narasimhaiah S/O Anjanappa R/O H. No. 20, Agara, P.O. Malligemetlu, Dist. Ramanagar (Karnataka) have changed my name to Chikka Narasimhaiah forever.

I, NILAAYA REDDY, Residing at Plot No. L2, Epsilon Ventures, Yemalur Main Road, Bengaluru - 560037, Have Changed My Name to M. NILAAYA REDDY. Vide Affidavit Dated 12.03.2026 before Notary SIVAKUMARA. M.N. Bengaluru

I, Koushik Das, resident of A-914, Ganga Vertica, Neeladri Road, Electronic City Phase I, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560100, hereby declare that my minor son's name has been changed from Ishaan to Ishaan Das. Henceforth, he shall be known as Ishaan Das for all purposes."

I NAVEEKUMAR.V R/o 29/A, LG Rose Heritage, Kannuru, Bengaluru-560077, Have changed my name as V.NAVIN for all purpose.

I, Nithyananda V S aged abt 43yrs residing @ No 29 Om Shambhavi AGS Layout main Road Ittamadu Bangalore 560061 I here by declare that my son from Sangamanath N S and Vishwas N S both are same Vide affidavit date 01-03-2026 before notary Venkatamu Bangalore

I, Nithyananda V S aged abt 43yrs residing @ No 29 Om Shambhavi AGS Layout main Road Ittamadu Bangalore 560061 I here by declare that my son from SHIVANATH N S and GAUTHAM DIWAN N S both are same Vide affidavit date 01-03-2026 before notary Venkatamu Bangalore

I, Shrikanth Hegde R/o: C601, 5th Floor, Tower1, Ramky One Karnival, Neo Town Road, Shikaripalya, EC, Bangalore - 560100. Changed my name as Shrikanth Jayaram Hegde.

I, Mohamed Abdul Hafeez, S/o Late Mohammed Fakhruddin, residing at No. 13/2, 1st Crs, Bhd Sayidia AC, KB Sandra, Bengaluru-560032 have changed my name to Hafeezulla Mohammed Fakhruddin (Hafeezulla M F) vide affidavit dated 05.03.2026 sworn before Notary C Sharada,Bengaluru

LOST & FOUND

I, H J Rajeshgowda, No 1778/14, 6th Main, 9th Cross, Hampi Nagara, RPC Layout, Vijayanagara, Bangalore, Have Lost My Original Sale Deed Document No: BDA-1-00407-2023-2024 CD No: BDAD 1059.Date.06. 05.2022, Regarding This Complaint (No. 2085033/2026) Dated: 27/02/2026. If Anybody Finds The Document Please Inform To The Above Address Or Call: 9164788899.

MISSING

MISSING PERSON

Name:- Goutam Ganguly
82 years
S/o Late Narendranath Ganguly
If any information please Contact To Govindapura Police Station: 080-22943305.
East Control
Room No-080-2294-3535.
Police Inspector
Mob No: 9480801024

BOOK YOUR PERSONAL ADS
CALL : 18001205474 (Toll Free)
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SCAN QR CODE

FARMS

FARM LANDS SALE Just 2Km From Hassan highway,from Nalemangla 14Km, from Majestic 47Km Ph: 9845108659 / 9845133609

3ACRES Fenced Farm land with Plots Starting at 1 Acre for Sale, 9km from Bangalore - Krishnagiri Highway. Tar Road Access. Tel: 9620612444

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

INDUSTRIAL Land for Rent at Nelamangala 4.4 acres of industrial land built to suit available for rent. Strategically located in a central area with excellent tar road access, suitable for industrial or commercial use. Call Mr. Rahul - 9901364160 Mr. Prabeer - 9845570506

WANTED for Purchase: Industrial Shed / Land (3500-5000 SQFT) in Bommasandra Industrial Area, Jigani Link Road, or Electronic City. Direct owners only. Call: 9481773963 / 9945111099.

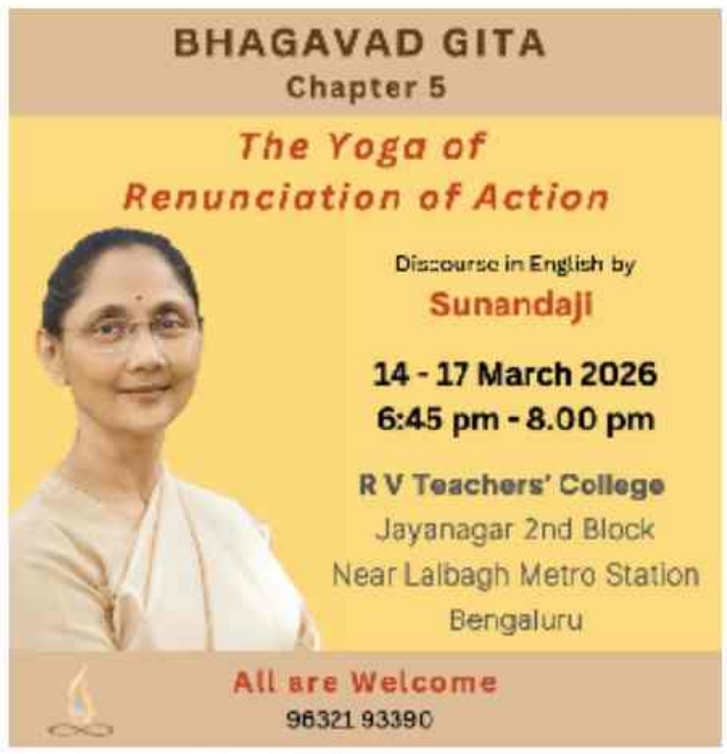
pets

MISSING DOG

OUR BABY BOY HAS BEEN MISSING FOR 5 MONTHS – WE ARE STILL LOOKING. PLEASE HELP US FIND HIM.

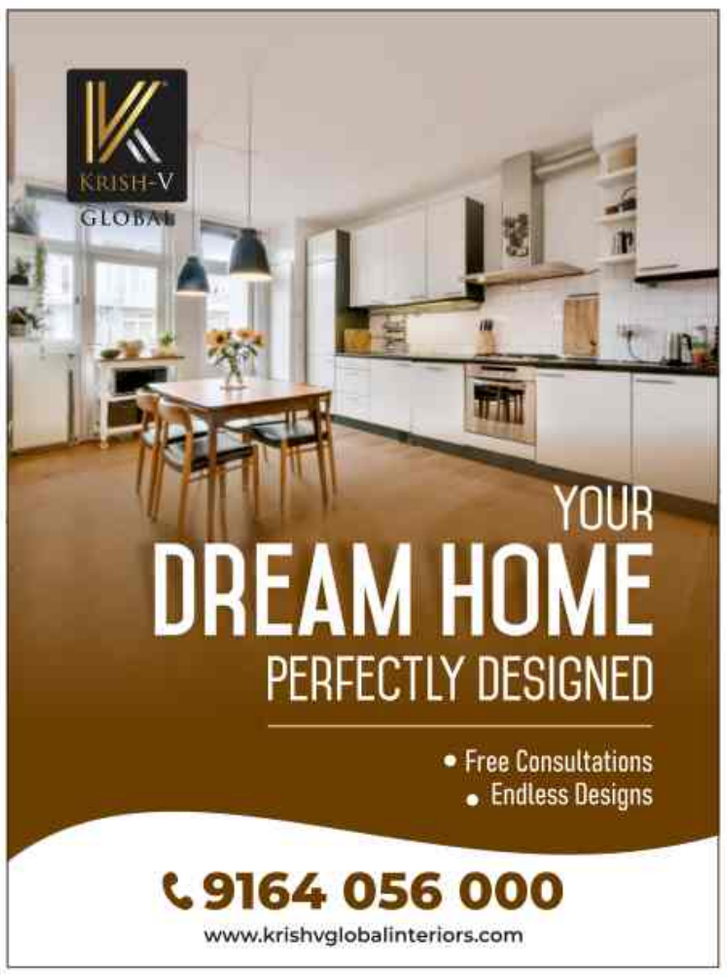
BONGO
Breed: INDIE
Gender: Male
Colour: Brown & White
If you see him, please take a PHOTO & send via WHATSAPP
→DO NOT CHASE !!
Last seen JP Nagar, could be in any part of Bangalore
Heart shaped white mark on forehead
White chest
Full brown body
White tail tip
White feet
₹50,000 REWARD
PLEASE CONTACT WITH ANY INFORMATION
+91-7483151270

GET NOTICED



TRAVEL TIMES

INDIA'S BIGGEST TRAVEL SHOW NETWORK
India's Biggest Travel Show Network
TTF
TRAVEL & TOURISM FAIR
13 14 15 March 2026
Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds (Gate 2 & 3), Bengaluru
LAST 2 DAYS
Reserved for Travel Trade
14 March: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Open to all
14 March: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
15 March: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Meet hundreds of travel brands and destinations from across India.
Discover exciting travel deals and holiday packages for your next getaway!
Host State Karnataka One state. Many worlds. www.karnatakatourism.org
Partner State GOA
Feature States Telangana
Incredible India
Supported by
Supported by
Official Publication travel
Organised by FAIRFEST
Free entry for all visitors* • 022 4555 8555 • www.ttfotm.com
*TTF is a trade show, visitors below 15 years are not allowed.
Right of Entry Reserved. Terms and Conditions Apply. ttfotm.com/entry-tnc



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S.S.C.
Bengaluru-560034

"Short Notice"

Staff Selection Commission (KKR), Bangalore, invites application from eligible graduates in BE(CSE/IT) B Tech (CSE)/IT/BSc(CS)/ BCA or equivalent for engagement of 01 (One) Young Professional (Information Technology) purely on contract basis for 1 year. Eligible candidates may send their application in prescribed format to email id **rdssckkr@nic.in** by 20.03.2026. Refer Detailed notification at **http://www.ssckkr.kar.nic.in**.

CBC 32203/11/0019/2526 **Deputy Director**

CENTRAL SILK BOARD
(Ministry of Textiles -Govt.of India)
CSB Complex, BTM Layout, Madiwala, Bengaluru-560 068
website: www.csb.gov.in

Advt.No.CSB/Estt./02/2026 **Date: 14.03.2026**

Brief Advertisement

Engagement of Sericulture Assistants (Contract Basis): The Central Silk Board (CSB), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, invites online applications for engagement of **Sericulture Assistants** on a purely contractual basis for deployment in the Bengaluru-based units.

Interested candidates are advised to read detailed advertisement available on CSB's website **(www.csb.gov.in)** and may apply online only through the link available on CSB website **(https://csb-hiring.in/)**. Last date for online application is **13.04.2026**.

Note: This is not a permanent or temporary Government post. Engagement is purely contractual and does not confer any right for regularization or absorption.

Sd/-
CBC: 41109/12/0025/2526 Competent Authority

Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(Department of Health Research)

Department of Health Research invites application for contractual positions of Junior Health Economist, Scientist B, Consultant (Finance & Accounts) & Consultant (Administration) in the Health Technology Assessment attached office.

Details of post, eligibility conditions, etc. for the contractual posts are available on the website of Department of Health Research- **https://dhr.gov.in/vacancies.** The last date for submission of application is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the newspapers.

Sd/-
Under Secretary
Department of Health Research

T.11016/20/2022-HR (pt-1) **CBC 17301/11/0008/2526**

FORM NO. CAA 2

[Pursuant to Section 230(3) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 6 and 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamation) Rules, 2016]

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL DIVISION BENCH, COURT 1, AHMEDABAD COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION

C.A. (CAA)/1(AHM)/2026

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013

And

In the matter of Section 230 to 232 read with section 66 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016;

And

In the matter of Composite Scheme of Arrangement of Abhinand Ventures Private Limited (Demerged Company / First Applicant Company) with Essar Power Limited (Resulting Company / Second Applicant company) and their respective Shareholders.

Essar Power Limited Resulting Company/
CIN: U40100GJ1991PLC064824 Second Applicant Company

Advertisement of Notice Convening Meeting of the Equity Shareholders, Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors of Second Applicant Company Pursuant to the Order of Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal Division Bench, Court 1, Ahmedabad

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 28th day of January 2026 read with the Order dated 9th day of March 2026 passed in the Interlocutory Application therein in Company Scheme Application No. 1 of 2026 ("NCLT Order") the Ahmedabad Bench of the Hon'ble NCLT has directed to convene separate meetings of the Equity Shareholders, Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors of the Second Applicant Company, be convened and held for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Composite Scheme of Arrangement of Abhinand Ventures Private Limited (Demerged Company /First Applicant Company) with Essar Power Limited (Resulting Company / Second Applicant company) and their respective Shareholders (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme") for Capital Reduction of Compulsorily Convertible Cumulative Preference Shares and related Reorganisation of Reserves of Second Applicant company and Transfer and vesting of the Demerged Undertaking of First Applicant Company into Second Applicant company by way of demerger on a going concern basis under the provisions of section 230 to 232 read with section 66 and the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016.

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that separate meetings of the Equity Shareholders, Secured Non- Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors will be held as under, at which the said Equity Shareholders, Secured Non- Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend:

Sr. No.	Class of Meeting	Date of Meeting	Time (IST)	Place of the Meetings
1	Equity Shareholders	Sunday 19th day of April 2026	10.30 a.m.	At Registered office situated at Office No.14 & 15, Ground Floor, Info Tower-I, Infocity, Airport Road, Near Indroda Circle, Indroda,Gandhinagar - 382007, Gujarat, India
2	Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders		10.30 a.m.	
3	Unsecured creditors		12:30 PM	

The Second Applicant Company has dispatched the Notices, Explanatory Statements and Proxy forms, of respective meeting, along with all annexures to Equity Shareholders, Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors. Copies of said Notice which include Composite Scheme of Arrangement and the Statement under Section 230 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules made thereunder can be obtained free of charge from the Registered Office of the Company on all working days during working hours between 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. upon request. The Equity Shareholder, Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holder and Unsecured Creditor entitled to attend and vote at their respective meeting are entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of himself / herself and such proxy need not be a Equity Shareholder, Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holder and Unsecured Creditor of the Company. Proxies in order to be effective must be received by the company not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

The Hon'ble NCLT has appointed Mr. Saurabh Pandey, Advocate, Supreme Court, as the Chairperson and Mr. Kirit Himatla Kanjaria, Practicing Company Secretaries, as the Scrutinizer of the said meeting.

The queries or clarifications or any documents required in connection with the proposed scheme, shall be emailed to powersec@essarpower.co.in.

Sd/-
Mr. Saurabh Pandey
Dated this 13th of March 2026 Chairperson Appointed for the
Place: New Delhi Meeting of Second Applicant Company

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY
An Institution of National Importance
Pioneering National Security and Police University of India
At: Lavad, Ta: Dehgam, Gandhinagar 382305, Gujarat, India
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Corrigendum

Advt. No: RRU/HRB/Reg./Recruitment/2026/01
(Non-Teaching Regular Position)

With reference to above mentioned advertisement dated 13th March 2026, the last date for submission of application may kindly be read as 13th April 2026. All other information shall remain unchanged. Kindly visit the university website:- https://rru.ac.in/header/careers for more details.

INF/2806/2025-26 **Registrar I/c**

BRIC-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF IMMUNOLOGY
(A Research Institute of BRIC, Department of Biotechnology)
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi -110067

VACANCY NOTICE
Advt. No. NII/01/2026

National Institute of Immunology (NII) (a Research Institute under BRIC, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India) invites applications from eligible and interested candidates for filling up the vacancy of **Public Relations Officer (Level-11 of Pay Matrix)** in Administrative Cadre on Short Term Contract basis or Deputation.

The detailed advertisement with regard to qualifications, eligibility criteria, job profile, application fee, mode of recruitment, general terms and conditions and other relevant details are available on the website **www.nii.res.in** and **www.dbt.gov.in.**

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT GWALIOR
(An Institute of National Importance under MoE, GoI)
Morena Link Road Gwalior-474015 | Website : www.iiitm.ac.in

Ref. ABV-IIITMG/NF Rect./2026/2421 Date:12/03/2026

ABV-IIITM, Gwalior is an Institute of National Importance set up by the Ministry of Education, Government of India with the objective of imparting education and conducting research of par excellence in the fields of Information & Communication Technology and IT-enabled Management. The Institute is inviting application for recruitment to the following Non-faculty positions:

Non-Faculty Positions Adv. No. 04/2026

S.No.	Name of Post (s)	No. Of posts			Pay Level as per 7th CPC	Upper Age	Group
		GEN	OBC	SC			
1	Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil)	1	-	-	Level-10	45	A
2	Assistant Engineer (Electrical)	-	1	-	Level-7	35	B
3	Junior Engineer (Civil)	-	-	1	Level-6	32	B
4	Assistant Physical Education Officer (APEO)	1	-	-	Level-10	45	A
5	Physical Training Instructor (PTI)	1	-	-	Level-6	32	B

For further details regarding qualification, experience etc. kindly visit our website http://www.iiitm.ac.in. Last date for Receipt of Applications in Prescribed format in hardcopy: 20/04/2026.

Dated:12/3/2026 **Deputy Registrar (Admin)**

FORM NO. CAA 2

[Pursuant to Section 230(3) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 6 and 7 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamation) Rules, 2016]

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL DIVISION BENCH, COURT 1, AHMEDABAD COMPANY SCHEME APPLICATION

C.A. (CAA)/1(AHM)/2026

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013

And

In the matter of Section 230 to 232 read with section 66 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016;

And

In the matter of Composite Scheme of Arrangement of Abhinand Ventures Private Limited (Demerged Company / First Applicant Company) with Essar Power Limited (Resulting Company / Second Applicant Company) and their respective Shareholders.

Abhinand Ventures Private Limited Demerged Company/
CIN: U74110GJ2016PTC167903 First Applicant Company

Advertisement of Notice Convening Meeting of the Secured Non - Convertible Debenture Holders, and Unsecured Creditors of First Applicant Company Pursuant to the Order of Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Division Bench 1, Ahmedabad (Hon'ble NCLT)

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 28th day of January 2026 read with the Order dated 9th day of March 2026 passed in the Interlocutory Application therein in Company Scheme Application No. 1 of 2026 ("NCLT Order") the Ahmedabad Bench of the Hon'ble NCLT has directed to convene separate meetings of the Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors of the First Applicant Company, be convened and held for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Composite Scheme of Arrangement of Abhinand Ventures Private Limited (Demerged Company / First Applicant Company) with Essar Power Limited (Resulting Company / Second Applicant company) and their respective Shareholders (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme") for Capital Reduction of Compulsorily Convertible Cumulative Preference Shares and related Reorganisation of Reserves of Second Applicant company and Transfer and vesting of the Demerged Undertaking of First Applicant Company into Second Applicant company by way of demerger on a going concern basis under the provisions of section 230 to 232 read with section 66 and the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016.

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein, further notice is hereby given that separate meetings of the Secured Non- Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors will be held as under, at which the said Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend:

Sr. No.	Class of Meeting	Date of Meeting	Time (IST)	Place of the Meetings
1	Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders	Saturday 18th Day of April 2026	10.30 a.m.	At Registered office of the Company situated at 601, 6th Floor, Indra Complex, Near Namrata Society, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390004, Gujarat, India
2	Unsecured Creditors		11.30 a.m.	

The First Applicant Company has dispatched the Notices, Explanatory Statements and Proxy forms, of respective meeting, along with all annexures to Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holders and Unsecured Creditors. Copies of said Notice which include Composite Scheme of Arrangement and the Statement under Section 230 of the Companies Act, 2013 and read with rules made thereunder can be obtained free of charge from the Registered Office of the Company on all working days during working hours between 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. upon request. The Secured Non- Convertible Debenture Holder and Unsecured Creditor entitled to attend and vote at the meeting are entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of himself / herself and such proxy need not be the Secured Non-Convertible Debenture Holder, Unsecured Creditor of the Company. Proxies in order to be effective must be received by the company not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

The Hon'ble NCLT has appointed Mr. Saurabh Pandey, Advocate, Supreme Court, as the Chairperson and Mr. Kirit Himatla Kanjaria, Practicing Company Secretaries, as the Scrutinizer of the said meeting.

The queries or clarifications or any documents required in connection with the proposed scheme, shall be emailed to holdingcosec@essar.com.

Sd/-
Mr. Saurabh Pandey
Dated this 13th of March 2026 Chairperson Appointed for the
Place: New Delhi Meeting of First Applicant Company

राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान (एनआईओएस)
National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अंतर्गत एक स्वायत्त संस्था)
[An Autonomous Institution under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India]
ए-24-25, इंस्टीट्यूशनल एरिया, सेक्टर-62, नोएडा, उत्तर प्रदेश-201309
A-24-25, Institutional Area, Sector-62, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh-201309

LARGEST OPEN SCHOOLING SYSTEM IN THE WORLD, SERVING THROUGH MORE THAN 10000 STUDY CENTRES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

INDICATIVE VACANCY NOTIFICATION

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an autonomous institution under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India. The Institute is committed to quality education through open and distance learning mode upto pre-degree level. NIOS invites online applications from eligible candidates for the following Group 'A' post :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Level in the Pay Matrix	No. of Post	Mode of Recruitment	Reservation Category
1.	Director (Evaluation)	Level-13 (₹123100-215900)	One (01)	Direct	OBC
2.	Director (Student Support Services)	Level-13 (₹123100-215900)	One (01)	Direct	UR

The applications are to be submitted online at www.nios.ac.in. No offline applications will be entertained. For other details and submission of online applications please visit official website of NIOS www.nios.ac.in.

Last date for submission of application form online on designated NIOS portal is **30 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in Employment News.

NIOS/RC/01/2026 **Secretary**

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS
IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar,
New Delhi – 110029

NEET – MDS 2026
NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the **NEET-MDS 2026** on **02-05-2026.**

The online applications are being invited from **14-03-2026 to 30-03-2026** at NBEMS website

https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=neetmds

Candidate Care Support:
+91-7996165333

- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(IMA & other company scam cases)
Podium Block, 3rd floor, Vishweshwaraya Towers, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-29565353 | email: splocaima21@gmail.com

No:SPLOCA/ADM/30/2024-25 **Date: 12.03.2026**

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Regarding Invitation for Applications/Proposals to avail human resources to the office of the Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru Division.

The resumes are invited from aspirant individuals to fill the below post at the Office of the Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru Division. The proposals may submitted to the office of the Special Officer and Competent Authority (IMA & Other Company Scam Cases).

Details of the Post **Last date of submission of Resume: 23.03.2026**

Post/ Designation: Assistant Controller, No. of Post: 1, Maximum Contract wage per month (Actual shall depend upon Qualification & Experience, Satisfactory completion of probation) Rs.65,000/- to Rs.75,000/-. Qualification: Preferred Retired from the State or Indian Audit & Accounts Department within the last 2 years in equivalent position, with minimum qualification of B.Com for Assistant Controller should have clean service records (there shall be no suspension, Departmental Enquiry, Criminal Case) Age: Not more than 65 years. or M.Com with experience of working as Chief AC in a PSU/Firm.

The Position is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract, renewable on satisfactory performance with periodic enhancement of salary scales, **not a permanent government service.**

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
IMA & other KPID Cases, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6271/CCL/2025-26

INDIAN AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE SPORTS CONTROL BOARD

RECRUITMENT OF OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM OUTSTANDING UNMARRIED MALE SPORTSMEN TO JOIN INDIAN AIR FORCE AS AGNIVEERVAYU (SPORTS) INTAKE 02/2026

DETAILED ADVERTISEMENT AVAILABLE ON HTTPS://AGNIPATHVAYU.CDAC.IN

ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED FROM 1000 Hr ON 23 MARCH 2026 TO 1700 Hr ON 29 MARCH 2026

AT HTTPS://AGNIPATHVAYU.CDAC.IN/CASBSPM

TENTATIVE DATES FOR SELECTION TRIALS AT NEW DELHI FROM 08 APRIL TO 10 APRIL 2026

CBC 10803/11/0032/2526

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EOI-01/3939/2025-26 **Date: 13.03.2026**

NOTICE OF TENDER FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender for expression of interest from Reputed Consultants/Firms under two cover bid system Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement having vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work.

Name of the work: Expression of Interest for setting up of Solid Waste Management (SWM) facility similar to TSDF which includes Collection, Segregation, Processing and Scientific Disposal of Solid Waste in Selected Industrial Areas of Karnataka under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model.

- Last Date for submission of Bids: **27.03.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants may download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1,
KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6270/CCL/2025-26

F.No.A-12026/9/2020-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

VACANCY NOTICE

Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) invites applications for the following positions in the Narmada Control Authority (NCA), Indore on Deputation (including Short-Term Contract) basis:

S.No.	Name of the Post	Pay Scale	No. of Posts
1.	Executive Member	Level-15 (Rs.1,82,200 - 2,24,100/-)	01
2.	Member (Environmental & Rehabilitation)	Level-14 (Rs. 1,44,200 - 2,18,200/-)	01

2. Narmada Control Authority (NCA) is a Body Corporate set up by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6A of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956, for the purpose of securing compliance with the implementation of the decision and direction of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The Narmada Control Authority has its headquarters at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
3. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc. are available at **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in; dopt.gov.in** and **nca.gov.in.** Applications **(in triplicate)** complete in all respects of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to:- The Under Secretary (Estt.IV), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No.435B, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110 001 and by email at **use4-mowr@nic.in** & **soe4-mowr@gov.in, within a period of 45 days from the date of issue/ publishing of this Advertisement in the Employment News.**
4. Advance copies of application not forwarded through proper channel or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.

(Narayanan Bhattadri K.P.)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

SC to govt: Shift to pulses from wheat, paddy crops

'Pay Remunerative Cost To Farmers For The Switch'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Suggesting a major reboot in agricultural policy, Supreme Court Friday asked Union govt to deliberate with domain experts and stakeholders to devise a remunerative framework to encourage farmers to shift from traditional wheat and paddy crops to pulses.

During the hearing on a PIL questioning govt's wisdom in importing yellow peas initially without import duty, which at present is pegged at 30%, additional solicitor general N Venkataraman told a bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi that shortfall of 30 lakh tonnes in production of pulses between 2021 and 2024 had forced govt to import yellow peas to stabilise prices and guard consumer interest.

CJI Kant, hailing from a farming family, said govt provided minimum support prices (MSPs) for wheat, rice and millets but not for pulses. "The moment you make sure farmers get remunerative MSP for pulses, whose production from a given area is less compared to paddy or wheat from the same area, the production will automatically increase. Otherwise, small farmers would not risk growing pulses as they are not sure whether it would fetch them the cost of investment and labour," the CJI said.

"Please ask your agriculture ministry to consult those who understand the pulse of farmers and not foreign degree holders," he said.

Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Prashant Bhushan said the CJI's views were reflected verbatim in the recent report of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)which recommends MSP for 22 crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. In its order, the bench said

"In the absence of an incentivised MSP for pulses, the price offered should be sufficient to meet the expenses of small farmers growing pulses. It should come with a guaranteed timely sale of the produce and fixation of import duty on yellow peas in such a manner that it does not adversely impact the cultivation of pulses in India."

Woman seeks SC help for early hearing of her 14-year-old challenge to divorce order

In a case of delayed justice, a woman tired of waiting endlessly in Patna HC, which could not pronounce the judgment it reserved in 2017, Friday requested Supreme Court to help her end the ordeal, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.** The woman said her husband had obtained a divorce decree in 2012 from a Patna family court accusing her of cruelty in the matrimonial home. She promptly challenged it before Patna HC. The judge reserved the judgment in 2017 but was transferred. It made the order of reserving verdict infructuous as arguments were required to be heard afresh by a new bench. She moved HC with an application seeking expeditious fresh hearing on her 2012 petition. A bench took up the application on April 11 last year. SC expressed disappointment at the lack of sensitivity among HCs towards matrimonial disputes. It requested Patna HC to list her matter urgently for hearing and decide the matter in three weeks.

काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय **BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**

An Institution of National Importance established by an Act of Parliament

EMPANELMENT OF PATENT AGENT/FIRM FOR BHU, VARANASI

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi invites application for empanelment of Patent Agent/Firm for patent filing/publication/ examination and other related works at IP Offices. For details, visit www.bhu.ac.in.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Municipal Corporation Amritsar
Tender Reference No. E-Tender Notice No. 181 Date 10.03.2026

The Department of : Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invites Bid for the following Works :

S.N	Works	Closing Date and Time
1	Sweeping of Main Roads (3rd Call)	25.03.2026 upto 03:00 PM
2	Sweeping of Internal Roads (3rd Call)	21.03.2026 upto 03:00 PM
3	Various Works (1st Call)	21.03.2026 upto 03:00 PM

EMD : 2% of Estimate Amount.
For Detail log onto : https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer (c), Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

DPR/Pb.:1596/12/2025-26/9419

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION-1 JAIPUR
Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur (Raj.) E-Mail- ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No- ACE/PHED/Ar. Jhujhunu/2025-26/ Date-

NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No. 04/2025-26)

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan NIT No. 04/2025-26 online tender is hereby invited from eligible bidders for "Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS, Pilani and Vidhya Vihar District Jhunjhunu including 05 years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability Period under AMRUT 2.0". Interested bidders may participated upto **06.00 PM** on dated **01.04.2026** as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/Tender document available on website: https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule.

NIT No.	Particular	Estt. Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	UBN No./ NIB
04/ 2025-26	"Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS, Pilani and Vidhya Vihar District Jhunjhunu including 05 years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability Period under AMRUT 2.0"	4470.23	PHE2526WLOB15241 PHE2526A7063

DIPR/C/5039/2026 **Additional Chief Engineer PHED REGION-I JAIPUR**

TUMAKURU MACHINE TOOL PARK
(Joint Venture of GOI & GOK)
(CIN-U45207KA2017NPL099566) GSTIN: 29AAGCT1225P1ZX
No. 2, 2/1 & 2/3, KIADB Building, 6th Floor, Acharya Tulasi Marga, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09,
Ph: 080-22288843 e-Mail: tmtp@kiadb.in, Website: www.tmtp.in
Date: 13.03.2026

CORRIGENDUM

The last date fixed for auction i.e., 16.03.2026 vide Tender **Notification No. TMTP/F&A/027/E-auction 04/43/2025-26 dated: 09.03.2026** for investment of **Rs.16.60 Crore** in Fixed deposit for a period of 181 days in Nationalised/ Public Sector Banks, has been extended upto: **23.03.2026** at **16.00 hours.**
For more details visit: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, TMTP

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No: ACF/HNR/ Campa /CR-1/2025-26/ Date: 11.03.2026

Detailed e-Tender Notice.
(e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

Unitwar Tender is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal from interested Forest Contractors having experience for implementation of total 73 Advance Works for formation of plantation and maintenance and maintenance of saplings under CAMPA Scheme of Approx. total Rs. 3.67 crores in various places in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 26.03.2026 up to 5.15 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests
Hosanagara Sub-Division, Hosanagara

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/97/03/2021

संजय गांधी स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, लखनऊ
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road Lucknow-226014 (U.P.)
Phones: 0522-2495842, 2494095
Website: www.sgpgi.ac.in

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (hereinafter referred to as the **"Institute"**) is committed to providing efficient, state-of-the-art services for which efficient and skilled manpower having in-depth knowledge of their respective subjects is required.

The Institute offers postgraduate medical training and operates a tertiary-care referral hospital that provides affordable medical care. It caters to patients referred not only from the entire State of Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring States such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, but also from across India and neighbouring countries including Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and several Middle Eastern countries. The Institute is also emerging as a destination for medical tourism.

This autonomous Institute is a University established by the **Government of Uttar Pradesh.** Located on a sprawling 550-acre campus, the Institute awards its own degrees, which are duly recognized by the **National Medical Commission.** It offers DM, MCh, MD, PhD, post- doctoral fellowships and post-doctoral certificate courses, senior residency in various specialties, as well as paramedical and allied health sciences programmes, including College of Nursing courses.

The Institute presently has **275 faculty members across 37 academic departments** engaged in teaching, training, patient care and research. To ensure optimal healthcare delivery, non-academic support wings such as paramedical services, hospital services, engineering, and ministerial/secretarial services provide essential inputs to the management of patient-care services.

The Institute is in the process of recruiting various categories of support staff and anticipates receiving approximately **1,00,000 applications** for the said examination. To facilitate this, the Institute intends to **empanel Government Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** for providing **Online Examination Services (Computer Based Test)** for conduct and processing of various examinations.

The Institute hereby invites **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** from interested **Government PSUs** for empanelment for **"Online Examination Services (Computer Based Test): Conduct and Processing of Various Examinations of Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow."**

The relevant documents regarding Scope of work are available on the Institute's website **www.sgpgims.org.in.**

The interested Government PSUs are required to send their proposals, **addressed to the Director,** to the Institute through **Registered Post/Speed Post/Courier** to the following address **on or before 25.03.2026, 05:00 PM.**

RSD Cell, Room No. 101, Administrative Block,
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences,
Lucknow 226014, Uttar Pradesh

The Institute shall not be responsible for any postal delay and will not entertain any proposals received **after the prescribed date and time**.

Hence, those bidders who have submitted their offer against EOI ref. no. 1/51/Contract Cell/Online Exam. Various Services/2025-26 dated 26.02.2026 need not to submit again.

The proposal so received shall be duly reviewed by the Institute, and invite the suitable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for Power Point presentation on fixed date and time, which will be communicated separately.

Advt. No. 1/56/Contract Cell/Online Exam. Various Services/2025-26
DIRECTOR

FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner,
No. 8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: FCS/IT-01/06/2025-26 Date: 13-03-2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) - (2nd CALL)

For **Supply of All in One Desktops, Laptops, Scanners, Printers and Xerox Machines to the Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Karnataka** invites RFP from Interested and Eligible Suppliers.

1) RFP Reference No: **FCS/IT-01/06/25-26 (2nd Call). 2)** RFP Publish Date: **13-03-2026. 3)** Date & Time for Pre Bid Meeting: **16-03-2026 at 12.00 PM. 4)** Last Date & Time for Submission of RFP: **20-03-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 5)** Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid: **23-03-2026 after 11.00 AM. 6)** Tentative Date and Time of Opening of Commercial Bid: **24-03-2026 after 11.00 AM After the Approval of Technical Bid. 7)** Place of Opening of Tenders: **e-Procurement Portal. 8)** Venue of Pre Bid Meeting, Opening of Tender and Address for Communication: **Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, No.8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052.** Phone No: **+91-80-22262187,** E-mail: **com.fcs-ka@nic.in, ddit.fcs-ka@nic.in. 9)** Telephone Number to be Contact: **080-22262187.**

1) Bidder should submit Tender Processing Fee / Charges as stated in the e-Procurement Portal. **2)** Tender accepting authority reserves the right to modify, cancel the tender at any stage without assigning any reason. **3)** Other details can be obtained from the tender document.

More details could be obtained from **the Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru** (E-mail ID: **ddit.fcs-ka@nic.in, com.fcs-ka@nic.in,** Landline No: **080-22262187**)

Sd/- Joint Director (Awareness & IT)
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/6230/Adverto/2025-26

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105.
Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID: kwbceklb14@gmail.com
No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WSS/Balagnur AMRUT 2.0/2025-26/1683 Date:13.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (2nd Call)

(1) Detail of Work: Providing Improvement to the Water Supply Scheme to Balaganur Town under AMRUT 2.0 Including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through design, build, operation and transfer (DBOT) mode. (Lumpsum Tender – No Variation) (Work Indent No:KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT 488/CALL2) (2) **Amount of Estimate:** Rs. 2023.46 Lakhs (Excluding GST) (Capex: Rs.1851.38 Lakhs, Opex: Rs.172.08 Lakhs). **(3) Eligibility of Contractor:** Eligible Contractors. **(4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount:** Rs. 20,23,000/- **(5) Period of Completion:** 18 (Eighteen) Months (Including Monsoon) **(6)** Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal:**16.03.2026 after 17:00 Hrs. (7)** Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **30.03.2026 at 11:30 Hrs. (8)** Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders:**16.04.2026 Up to 17:00 Hrs (9)** Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **17.04.2026 After 17:30 Hrs. (10) Addl. information:** Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone: 08472-220817 E-mail ID: **kwbceklb14@gmail.com (11)** Address of E-portal:**www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi
DIPR/DD-C.P/6266/KSMCA/2025-26

Office of the Joint Director Social Welfare Dept Tumkur Dist, Tumkur
Ph No: 0816-2278132 Fax No: 0816-2278132
E-mail:**tumkur.dswo@gmail.com**
ಸಂ:ಜಂನಿ/ಸಕಇ/ಹೊ.ಸಂ.ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಸಿಆರ್–22/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.03.2026

E-Procurement Tender Publication

FOR SUPPLY OF MAN POWER FOR KARNATAKA RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONS INSTITUTIONS SOCIETY SCHOOLS COMINING UNDER SOCIAL WELFARE, DEPARTMENT.

Tumkur Dist hereby invites taluk wise Technical & Commercial Bids from officially registred, Eligible Suppliers, Non-governmental Organizations who are Registered under law, co-oprative societies who are Registered under Socirty Act For Supply of Man Power for all instiuturions spread over Tumkur District as described in the schedule of requirements.

(1) Tender Referance No and Date:JD/SWD/O.S/EST/CR:22/2025-26/ D: 04.03.2026 (2) Amount put to Tender: **As per E-procurement Portal,** (3) Starting date & Time for submissions of Tender: **10.03.2026 (4)** Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **08.03.2026, Time 4.00pm. (5)** EMD Amount: **As per E-procurement Portal,** (6) Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication: Office of Joint Director, Social Welfare Department, Near DC Office, Tumakru.

Interested, eligible & Registred in e-procurement portal bidders can download the bid documents by visiting the website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- (Krishnappa.S)
Joint Director, Social Welfare Dept,
DIPR/TUM/491/KSMCA/2025-26 Tumakuru Dist, Tumkur

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967
(ONLINE ONLY)

Tender Notice NIT.No. 73/CD/T.No.73/2025-26 **Dt.13.03.2026**

For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, tenders are invited under **"Single Cover System"** through online only for the following work from **Class - IV** Civil Contractors registered in PWD / Highways / Any Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, Central Government Department, Tamil Nadu State Government Undertaking having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto **15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock) on **01.04.2026** and the same will be opened at s**15.30 Hrs** (as per server system clock) on **02.04.2026.**

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Special repairs in dormitory building, toilet block, workshop kitchen and shop building with necessary electrical, water supply and sanitary arrangements to truck terminal at plot No.AA9 at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam vadagal	Rs.88.00 lakhs (including GST @18%)	Rs.54,000/-*

* EMD shall be paid either through online in the portal (tntenders.gov.in) or through **eBG** (as per the list of banks attached in the Annexure-II)

The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR / 1780 / TENDER / 2026 **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**

4001/68/2526

ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha undertaking)
AT-IB THERMAL POWER STATION, PO: BANAHARPALI, DIST: JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA-768234
Phone no: (Land Line No. 06645-289232/221/355/356/245)

Expression of Interest

OPGC invites sealed bids from bonafide and financially sound Registered Agencies /Firms /Companies for execution of the following Works & Supplies for its Thermal Power Plant at Banharpali.

EOI: NIT NO. ITPS/CC-22/2025-26/16, Date: 14.03.2026

SL.No.	DESCRIPTION	BID SALE DATE
1.	Upgradation of Main Turbine Governing System and LPBP Governing System (Control & Protection) in OPGC 2X210 MW Units.	14.03.26 to 04.04.26

The detailed EOI along with Terms and Conditions are available for download at OPGC website at **www.opgc.co.in**. Addenda/Corrigenda/ Extensions, if any, will be notified on the OPGC website only and will not be published in any other media. Interested companies or entities may visit OPGC website for the tender timeline and other details.

Sd/-
Manoj Pradhan
DGM-Contracts
OIPR-4001/4067/1/25-26/0004

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Govt. of Karnataka)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), Corporate Office, Vidyut Bhavan, Gopanakkoppa, Hubballi - 580023.
Phone: 0836-2223877 Fax: 0836-2324307 e-Mail: seepmc.hescom@gmail.com Website: www.hescom.co.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437

No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P1/AEE 2&3/2025-26/CYS-12363 Dated: 13-03-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through K.P.P. Portal Only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the below said Tenders for Bagalkot District on Total Turnkey Basis in HESCOM Jurisdiction.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Bid Indent No. for SC Category	Bid Indent No. for ST Category	Bid Indent No. for Others
1	Construction of 11KV Link Lines.	HESCOM/2025-26/ EL/WORK_INDENT 1065 & 1069	HESCOM/2025-26/ EL/WORK_INDENT 1064	HESCOM/2025-26/ EL/WORK_INDENT 1066, 1067 & 1068
2	Reconductoring of 11KV Lines.	HESCOM/2025-26/ EL/WORK_INDENT 1015	HESCOM/2025-26/ EL/WORK_INDENT 1020	HESCOM/2025-26/ EL/WORK_INDENT 1013, 1014, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1021 & 1022

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 3.00 PM of 13-03-2026.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Project Monitoring Cell,
HESCOM, Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/1355/Adverto/2025-26

NOTICE FOR BID

Tender Ref. No. **DLR-11011/20/2026 (Tender ID: 2026_DLRAR_51884_1)**

1. The Inspector General of Registration, Assam, hereby invites online Bids from eligible Bidders following **two-bid system** of bidding for **Engagement of Firm for Setting up Premium Registration Offices (PRO) for IGR, Assam.**
2. The Open Competitive Bidding method shall be followed for selection of the most preferred bidder for the tendered Item(s). The tender terms, conditions and procedures are in conformity with "The Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017" and "The Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2020" as amended from time to time.
3. The Bidding Documents can be downloaded by any prospective bidder from the e-Procurement portal i.e., **http://assamtenders.gov.in,** free of cost.
4. All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Security of the amount as specified for the item(s) bid, unless otherwise mentioned in the Bidding Documents. Exemptions to Bid Security are allowed to certain classes of bidders, if mentioned in this Bidding Document.
5. Bids must be submitted online at the e-Procurement portal (i.e., **http://assamtenders.gov.in)** on or before the due date for submission i.e. **07.04.2026 upto 2:00 PM.**
6. The Bidders are also required to submit the hardcopy of the Power of Attorney and original Bank Guarantee in the office of the Director of Land Records and Surveys etc., Assam, Rajah Bhawan, Rupnagar, Guwahati - 32, within the due date for submission of Bid i.e., **07.04.2026 upto 2:00 PM.** Late Bids will be liable for rejection summarily.
7. The Technical Bid will be opened online on **08.04.2026 at 2:00 PM** and the Price Bid shall be opened online only for the technically qualified bidders.
8. The Inspector General of Registration, Assam reserves the right to accept/reject any/ all applications without assigning any reason thereof. Any corrigendum/addendum etc., shall be uploaded to the e-procurement portal website **https://assamtenders.gov.in** only.
9. Bidders who seek to appeal against any decision, action, or omission regarding this procurement may do so as per Section 38 of the Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017 and Rule 26 of the Assam Public Procurement Rules, 2022. The first and second appellate authority are as mentioned below:

1st Appellate Authority	2nd Appellate Authority
Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Revenue and DM Department, Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati - 06	Shri. Virendra Mittal, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary Finance Department, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati - 06

DIPR/CF/TOI/4554/14-Mar-26 Sd/- **IGR, Assam**

6001/37/2526

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com
www.omfed.com

E-Tender

The Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd. (OMFED) invites online tenders from reputed Manufacturer/Authorized Distributor/ Authorized Dealer for supply of Visi Cooler, Chest Cooler & Deep Freezer for Marketing Division. The tender is invited through e-Procurement Portal of Govt. of Odisha (**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**) & **www.omfed.com**. Availability of bid documents: 13.03.2026 (10.00 AM) to 30.03.2026 (1.00 PM). Last date of online submission: 30.03.2026 up to 1.00 PM and Opening of bids: 30.03.2026 at 3.00 PM at OMFED Corporate Office. OMFED reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OIPR-6001/6063/1/25-26/0024

38001/11/2526

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport,
Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone - A,
Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar
Phone: 0674-2300885, Email: - portsniwt.od@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. DPIWT-39/2025-26

01.	Name of the work	: **Construction of Fishing Harbour Stage-II at Astaranga (Nuagarh) in Puri District.**
02.	Approximate value of the work	: **Rs.139.11 Crore**
03.	No. of Covers	: **Double Cover**
04.	Bid Cost	: **Rs.10,000.00 (Online)**
05.	Period of completion	: **24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months**
06.	Date & Time of availability of Bid Document in the portal	: **19.03.2026 to 06.04.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.**
07.	Date & Time of Bid Clarification	: **19.03.2026 to 25.03.2026 upto 03.00 P.M.**
08.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting	: **26.03.2026 at 11.30 A.M**
09.	Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the portal	: **06.04.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.**
10.	Class of Contractor	: **'Super' Class Contractor**
11.	Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	: **07.04.2026 at 11.30 A.M.**
12.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Tender (O.I.T)	: **Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751023, Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885. e-Mail: - portsniwt.od@nic.in**

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**
The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Sd/-
Director
Ports & IWT, Odisha
OIPR-38001/38035/1/25-26/0006

Liberian & Russian tankers to reach Indian ports soon

At Least Four Oil Vessels Diverted Towards India

Chittaranjan.Tembhekar
@timesofindia.com

Pic for representation

Liberian-flagged tanker MT Smyrni is expected to arrive at Mumbai port on Saturday carrying about 1.4 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil

Mumbai: Even as tensions continue to disrupt shipping routes in the Persian Gulf, two crude oil tankers have safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are heading towards Indian ports, offering a measure of relief on energy supplies.

The Liberian-flagged tanker *MT Smyrni* is expected to arrive at Mumbai port on Saturday carrying about 1.4 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil. Another vessel, the Indian oil tanker *Jag Prakash*, transporting around 50,000 metric tonnes of crude, has also crossed the strait. According to information, *Jag Prakash* is likely an Africa-bound vessel and there is no confirmation yet if it will be diverted to India by paying additional premium.

Shipping sources said the movement of these vessels is significant as at least 37 Indian ships remain impacted in the conflict-affected region.

Industry analysts said India could see some near-term relief in crude supplies as several tankers carrying Russian oil — including vessels from the so-called "shadow" or "ghost" fleets — are also changing course mid-voyage and heading towards Indian ports after the US announced a waiver allowing the resumption of oil imports from Russia.

Shadow fleets, also referred to as dark fleets, comprise tankers operating outside the conventional regulatory framework governing global maritime traffic and are often used to transport sanctioned oil cargoes.

Vessel-tracking data indicate that at least four tankers have already diverted towards India. These include a non-sanctioned Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) that is part of the shadow fleet. Two of these vessels were originally headed for China after loading crude from Russia's Far East but altered course mid-voyage, sources said.

Another tanker, *Suezmax Indri* with a capacity of 80,000 metric tonnes, was initially sailing towards Singapore before abruptly changing course on March 4. The vessel discharged crude originating from Russia's Baltic region at Sikka port in Gujarat on March 9.

International shipping data suggest that about 60 million barrels of Russian crude are currently on the water, having been loaded before March 6 — the date the waiver was announced — and are within a typical 30-day sailing distance of India. Of this, around 24 million barrels are being transported on non-sanctioned vessels, while the remaining 36 million barrels are on sanctioned tankers.

Despite the developments, shipping operations in the Gulf remain strained.

Sunil Vaswani, executive director of Container Shipping Line Association, said the situation has become more challenging for shipping companies. "We were hoping this would not turn into a long-drawn affair, but there is no respite yet. Some ships are stuck on either side of the Strait of Hormuz — some inside and some outside — while services up to the Persian Gulf have been suspended," he said.

IndiGo to levy fare surcharge from today

New Delhi/Mumbai: With oil on fire amid the raging US-Israel versus Iran war, IndiGo has followed suit after Air India group and decided to levy an additional fuel charge between Rs 425 and Rs 2,300 from March 14 on all its domestic and international flights, citing "the significant surge in fuel prices following the ongoing geopolitical issues."

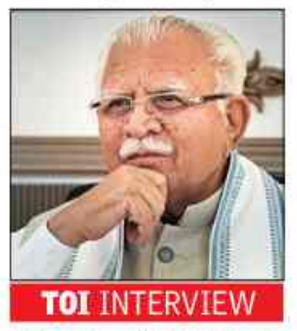
The additional charge will apply to all new bookings made from 00:01 hrs on March 14 across domestic and international routes, the airline said in a press statement on Friday.

"IATA's 'jet fuel monitor' indicates an over 85% increase in fuel prices for the region This sudden and steep increase will have a material impact on all airlines' costs and network, including IndiGo's," the airline's statement said.

IndiGo will levy Rs 425 as fuel charge on domestic and Indian subcontinent flights, Rs 900 on West Asia flights, Rs 1,800 on Southeast Asia, China and Africa flights and Rs 2,300 on Europe flights. Air India group started levying a fuel surcharge between Rs 399 and $200 on its flights beginning Thursday saying "some flights would have to be cancelled" if the surcharge is not applied. TNN

'Identifying sites in J&K for new power plants'

Power minister **Manohar Lal** *has been working on ensuring that electricity supply stays ahead of demand, while maintaining the health of discoms. In an interview with* **TOI**'s **Atul Mathur** & **Sidhartha**, *he discusses the future of thermal plants, fresh assistance to states to help clear the past losses and plans to set up new projects and build canals after the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty. Excerpts:*



TOI INTERVIEW

How is govt seeking to ensure that power supply stays ahead of demand?

■ We are continuously expanding our generation. Earlier, the focus was on thermal capacity addition. The priority now is renewable energy, especially solar. Since solar power is not available round the clock, we are focusing on storage solutions. Nuclear energy will also contribute. The current capacity is around 8GW and 12GW is in the pipeline. Our long-term target is 100GW of nuclear capacity by 2047, and states have been encouraged to develop at least one project each. Continuous power can come from thermal, nuclear or gas. Gas is expensive and therefore not a priority. In 2014-15, the demand-supply gap was around 5.5%. By 2024-25, it came down to 0.1%, which is largely due to technical factors.

There is pressure from developed countries to shut down coal-based thermal power plants. What will be India's policy?

■ Our priority is clean and green power. Continuous supply is needed for grid stability, and thermal power provides that. All thermal projects that can be developed up to 2032 have already been planned. Around 20,000MW of capacity is under development. After that, new thermal plants may not be necessary because India has committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. Thermal plants that exist will continue until the end of their life cycle, but the overall share will gradually decline as renewable energy expands.

How will the gas shortage impact power generation?

■ I don't want to comment because it's an evolving situation.

Discoms have reported a profit of about Rs 2,700 crore. However, the sector still has large debt and accumulated losses. How will this be addressed?

■ Earlier, losses increased because tariffs were not aligned with costs. Govts often announced free or subsidised power, so cost of supply was higher than tariff charged. In some cases, the gap reached Re 1 per unit. Gradually, states have started addressing this issue. AT&C losses have fallen from 23-24% 10 years ago to around 16%. Illegal connections were removed and billing systems improved. Despite these improvements, accumulated losses remain around Rs 6.7 lakh crore. Earlier, the UDAY scheme transferred discom debt to state govts. A similar approach is being considered along with reforms, such as partial privatisation.

Which states are taking steps toward privatisation?

■ Gujarat has begun moving in that direction, Haryana is exploring the option and UP is considering further private participation. Haryana has proposed a model where a separate company will handle agricultural electricity connections. Agricultural feeders will be separated and power accounting will become clearer.

Farmer organisations have protested in some places against privatisation. What message does the Centre want to give them to address their concerns?

■ Farmers mainly require reliable electricity for irrigation. Whether supply comes from a govt company or a private one does not affect operations. Subsidies will continue.

There is discussion about having two discoms in the same area so consumers benefit from competition. Is the idea of multiple suppliers being considered?

■ Yes, it is being examined. Electricity quality cannot be differentiated because once power enters the network, it gets mixed. The system would function somewhat like the telecom sector, where consumers choose their service provider. The physical network will remain the same. Wires and meters won't change. Only the supplier providing electricity behind the network will change, and digital systems will track how much electricity each supplier provides. Consumers will be able to select their supplier based mainly on tariff. The concept is still at an early stage and requires legal and policy approval before implementation.

When will smart meters be installed in all homes?

■ Initially there was resistance, especially in rural areas, but people have started understanding the benefits. With prepaid smart meters, companies also receive payments in advance. If these are widely adopted, nearly Rs 1 lakh crore can enter the system as advance payments, improving liquidity in the power sector and reducing the need for loans. Some states already provide incentives for prepaid meters.

After the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, will new hydro projects come up in Kashmir?

■ Some plants are already operating, and desilting work is being undertaken to restore reservoir capacity. Work has also started on three-four projects that were stalled. Additional projects are being planned, and site identification is under way. There are also proposals to divert water towards Punjab and further to Rajasthan, Haryana, UP and Delhi through canals or tunnels. There are two-three possible routes; we have to see which one can be built faster and will be financially viable. One that has been proposed through the city of Jammu may not be feasible. The feasibility of another alignment around the city is being checked.

Rlys permits flameless cooking in train pantry

ManthanK.Mehta
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In a move aimed at ensuring uninterrupted onboard catering services, the Railway Board permitted the use of flameless cooking systems in pantry cars, allowing staff to prepare meals inside trains during the ongoing LPG supply constraints.

In a letter dated March 12, Railway Board allowed the use of flameless cooking in pantry cars during emergency situations, subject to strict adherence to safety protocols.

Earlier, pantry cars were permitted only to heat pre-cooked or ready-to-eat meals. The new directive, though, allows basic cooking using flameless technology, railway officials said.

The communication states: "Flameless cooking is permitted in pantry cars during such emergency situations, but only if all safety protocols and measures are strictly followed."

Flameless cooking involves the use of equipment such as induction stoves, microwaves and other electric cooking appliances that do not require open flames, making them suitable and safe for use inside train coaches.

India's biggest LPG bottler buys 14-day supply from US firm

Nagpur: Confidence Petroleum, billed to be India's largest private sector cooking gas bottler, has signed a deal with American trading company, BB Energy, for shipping 12,000 metric tons of bulk LPG, **reports Shishir Arya**. The deal comes at a high premium as two of Confidence's vessels carrying 22,400 tonnes of LPG remain stranded at the Strait of Hormuz. The crew is unwilling to set sail even if a naval escort is offered, sources said.

The ship that would sail off from Houston is expected to reach India by mid-April. Bulk LPG of 12,000MT is enough to cater to a fortnight's supply. Company chairman Nitin Khara said the new source had to be tapped considering the huge supply gap in the country. It is learnt the company got frantic calls from a leading steel company as depleting LPG stocks have risked closure of its plants. The CEO of a food aggregator company also sent SOS.

Nearly 100 of Iran navy ship crew fly out of India

Disney.Tom@timesofindia.com

Kochi: Nearly 100 members of the crew of Iranian naval ship IRIS Lavan, docked at Kochi port, have left India via Kochi airport, sources here said. There was, however, no formal confirmation from Southern Naval Command. According to the sources, the Iranian crew members left Kochi airport on an aircraft that landed here from Colombo. The plane departed Kochi airport late Friday. The sources did not disclose the aircraft's destination. The warship and its remaining crew are still in Kochi.

Nearly 183 crew were accommodated at naval facilities here. The ship was in the region for the International Fleet Review. It was days before the sinking of IRIS Dena by a US submarine south of Sri Lanka that India was approached by Iran to give the ship safe harbour. IRIS Dena was sunk on March 4, after leaving India and outside Indian waters.

Iran's request for IRIS Lavan, received on Feb 28, the day US and Israel launched their "Epic Fury" offensive, said docking at Kochi was urgent as the vessel had developed "technical" issues. Approval was accorded on March 1. IRIS Lavan docked at Kochi on March 4.

New Delhi's decision perhaps helped IRIS Lavan escape the fate that befell IRIS Dena, which was torpedoed and sunk in international waters by a US submarine. At least 87 Iranian sailors were killed.

Kerala to revisit stand on women's Sabarimala entry

T'puram: Kerala govt decided Friday to back a Supreme Court affidavit seeking steps to preserve customs and traditions of Sabarimala, aligning with Travancore Devaswom Board's position and reconsidering its earlier stance of supporting entry of women of all ages to the shrine. The shift came after CPM state secretariat backed traditions.

CPM state secretary M V Govindan said the party had always been respectful of the sentiments of the faithful and wanted a decision on Sabarimala to be taken after consulting experts in the field. "It is not just about Sabarimala; it is a constitutional issue before the apex court that concerns all religions," he said. The party had supported 2018 SC verdict allowing entry of women of menstruating age into the temple. TNN

S.E. RAILWAY SCRAP SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION

No. : SER/HQ-STOR0SALE(DSPL)/1/2025-26 SALE/7 Date : 13.03.2026

Additional E-Auction Programme

Division	Additional E-Auction date
Adra Division	On 19.03.2026, 25.03.2026 & 27.03.2026

N.B. : Please visit website : **www.ireps.gov.in/e-Auction** for details of **e-Auction schedule and catalogue**.

(PR-1304) Principal Chief Materials Manager

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Dy. CEE/PU/Agra for & on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on - line only (e-Tendering) for the following work:

Tender No.: AGCPU202603	Approximate Cost: Rs. 28640535/-
Name of work: Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of Automatic Fault Locator (AFL) for 2x25 KV AC traction system based on auto transformer neutral current ratio for SP, SSP and TSS on Mathura-Palwal Section in Agra Division of North Central Railway in connection with Raising of Speed to 160 kmph over existing New Delhi-Mumbai Route.	
Earnest Money: Rs. 293200/-	Period of completion: Six months

1. For full details & submission of bid please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Tender can only be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 16:00 Hrs. on date 02.04.2026 571/26 (ADM)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

Inter University Accelerator Centre
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi 110067

E-Procurement Tender Notice
TENDER NO: IUAC/NIT/GTE/03/2025-26

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for **High precision wavemeter for wavelength measurement and frequency stabilization of CW External Cavity Diode Laser.** Tender documents can be downloaded from https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish and www.iuac.res.in Last date for submission of tender is 30/03/2026 at 3.00 pm.

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Chief Engineer(Commercial &Tariff),Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram

Inviting Medium term Power procurement of 300 MW for the period form 01.01.2027 to 31.12.2031 during 18.00 to 24.00 hours (peak hours) on lumpsum tariff basis, through e-bidding portal (DEEP) only.

DEEP Portal e-Tender No. KSEBL/Medium/ Lumpsum Tariff/26-27/ET/8 and e-reverse auction No. KSEBL/Medium/Lumpsum Tariff /26-27/RA/8 Dated 12.03.2026

Last Date and time of submission of Application and Bid-30.04.2026-01.30 pm.

For more details visit **www.kseb.in** Ref:PR/MC1/F381/2026

संजय गांधी स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, लखनऊ
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road Lucknow-226014 (India)
Tele: 0522- 26680045-8, 2668700-800-900,
Fax-91-522-2668017/2668078 Website: www.sgpgi.ac.in

ONLINE Gem-Bid INVITED ON Gem-PORTAL

Online Gem-Bid notice on Gem portal for Comprehensive Operation, Maintenance and Development work of Horticulture services, Bid details are as under:-

Sl. No.	Particular	Bid Number	Date
1	Comprehensive Operation, Maintenance and Development work of Horticulture services.	GEM/2026/B /7349470	12.03.2026

The eligible bidders should submit their bids online only "in the submission module of Gem Portal".

I/57/Horticulture/2025-26 Director

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
Block-IB Plot- 166, Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700106

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR MAKAIAS SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, invites applications for the positions of MAKAIAS Senior Fellows under specified programmes approved by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Title of the Project: **Ramayana Diplomacy: Enhancing the Soft Power of India.**

Title of the Project: **Gautam Buddha: An Unifying Force in Asia.**

Title of the Project: **Ideas of Dr. Syama Prasad: A Religio-Cultural Perspective in the Contemporary Context.**

Title of the Project: **'Brihattar Bharat' (Greater India): Connecting the Asian Countries through culture and shared heritage, the project will well serve the Act East Policy of India.**

Please visit MAKAIAS website www.makaias.gov.in for details of advertisements.

Applications must reach the Institute office within 30 days from the date of publication of the advertisement.

Director
MAKAIAS, Kolkata
CBC 09123/12/0001/2526

thsti BRIC-Translational Health Science and Technology Institute BRIC

(An Institute of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council, Govt. of India)
NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone, Faridabad – Gurugram Expressway, P.O. Box No. 04, Faridabad – 121001

Recruitment Notice Nos. THS/RN/40/2025 and THS/RN/41/2025

THSTI proposes filling the following positions under its project: 1. Consultant and Head Pharmacology 2. Consultant (Study Coordinator) 3. Technical Assistant (Community Awareness) 4. Project Scientist (Pharmacist)

For more details, please visit our website: www.thsti.res.in

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of forest (Head of Forest Force) Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswhwaram, Bangalore-560003.

No.: KFD/HOFF/PUB(GEL)/2/2025-CI-KFD Date:11.03.2026

CORRIGENDUM

Tender Advertisement regarding Selection of Agency for handling Social media handles, publicity and awareness activities of Karnataka Forest Department was published on 11.03.2026 in this newspaper, the e-tender notification number is wrongly mentioned as KFD/2025-26/SE1453. The e-tender number shall be read as **KFD/2025-26/SE1628.** All Other terms and conditions remains the same.

Sd/-
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Publicity & ICT)

DIPR/CP/JA/6247/2025-26

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/227/2025-ADMN/250007 Date: 13.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

Tenders have been invited on 13.03.2026 for **Supply of Sweaters to SC and ST Residential Schools / Colleges functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Karnataka,** through e-Portal vide Indent No. **KREIS/2025-26/IND0091** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **13.04.2026.** The details may be viewed in the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority, KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/6233/2025-26

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in, Contact No.+91 9646107151

Tender Enquiry No. 684/GHTP/EMC/SGMC-W4/Vol-39 Dated : 13/03/2026

Superintending Engineer, Elect. Mtc. Circle, O&M, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work of Routine, Preventive, Breakdown & Shutdown Maintenance of 6.6KV & 415V AC Switchgears, 220V & 24V DC power supply systems, ESP Control Panels and other local control panels and associated equipments, battery banks, battery chargers, local push button stations and power receptacles, HT & LT Power and control cables installed at various locations under Switchgear Mtc. Cell of 2X210MW Stage-I and 2X250MW Stage-II, Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant, Lehra Mohabbat, District Bathinda, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of two year. For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **17/03/2026**, 11:00 AM onwards.

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-30/26, DPR/Pb./1079/12/2025-26/9449

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division Belagavi
Near Krishna Devaraya Circle, 1st Floor of PRED Division, Nehru Nagar -590010

No.RDW&S/ BGM/PB-1&4/TND-26/ KW- 4/2025-26/2409 Dated::13/03/2026

ITEM RATE TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT)

I) The Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Belgaum invites item rate tenders on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State Government from the eligible contractors **II)** Indent Number:9920 Calendar events are as follows : **i)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal: **23-03-2026** before**17:00 hours**. **ii)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid : **24-03-2026 before 17:30 Hours iv)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: After Technical Bid approval **IV)** Amount put to Tender, EMD, work completion period, Class of contractor, eligibility criteria are as published in e-procurement portal. **(Including Rainy Season).**

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Belgaum.

DIPR/BGM/2078/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

Urban Development Directorate, Uttarakhand
31/62, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001
Email: info.udduk@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Urban Development Directorate, Govt. of Uttarakhand invites bids through **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** for procurement of the following items for Urban Local Bodies:

S.No.	Item	Qty	GeM Bid No.
1	DC EV Charging Station	25	GEM/2026/B/7302376
2	Electric Trucks (V2)	80	GEM/2026/B/7301803
3	E-Cart for Goods	49	GEM/2026/B/7301797
4	Diesel Hopper Tipper Dumper for Garbage	15	GEM/2026/B/7302209

Bid submission end date: 03.04.2026 (11:00 AM)
Detailed tender documents are available on **GeM Portal (https://gem.gov.in).**

Director
Urban Development Directorate, Uttarakhand

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client intends to purchase/acquire the property described in the Schedule hereto below free from all encumbrances from its owner Mrs. M. Jyothi Lakshmi, wife of Mr. U. Devaraj, residing at No.36, Varanasi Main Road, Near Venugopala Swamy Temple, Varanasi, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru - 560036.

Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, agreement for sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Survey No.135 (earlier being part of Survey No.111 and 111/P2), measuring 3 Acres 25 Guntas (excluding 15 Guntas of kharab), situated at Singanayakanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli and Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded on:

East by : Road,
West by : Land belonging to Adhi Chunchanagiri Matta,
North by : Main Road leading from Singanayakanahalli to Madappanahalli,
South by : Land belonging to Adhi Chunchanagiri Matta.

Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner,
Fox Mandal and Associates,
6/12, Gurappa Avenue, Primrose Road, Bengaluru - 560 025
Phone : + 91 80 2559 5911, e-mail : prashantha.kumar@foxmandal.in
Dated: 14/03/2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Police and Member Secretary to Special Recruitment Committee for Technical Post

Recruitment of Technical Staff on contract basis.

The Police Department is recruiting the following technical posts for Coastal Security Police, Udupi on contract basis for a period of 5 years or age of 60 years, whichever is earliest. Details are as below.

1. **Boat Captain – 02 Post** (Equivalent to Police Sub Inspector Grade)
2. **Assistant Boat Captain – 10 Post** (Equivalent to Asst. Police Sub Inspector Grade)
3. **Motor Launch Mechanic – 02 Post** (Equivalent to Asst. Police Sub Inspector Grade)
4. **Engine Driver – 12 Post** (Equivalent to Police Head Constable Grade)
5. **Khalasi – 04 Post** (Equivalent to Police Constable Grade) **Total – 30 Post.**

Eligibility Criteria:-

- **Candidates who are from retired Navy/Coast Guard and B.S.F Water Wing are eligible to apply for the above mentioned posts. Last date to submit the application is 15-04-2026 at 04.30 p.m.**

For further details, like age, educational qualification, experience terms and condition may be ascertained from the Member Secretary and **Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Police, Bundar Road Malpe Udupi 576108** or from official website **ksp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Ph No: 0820-2538120, 2538150, Fax No.: 2538100

Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Coastal Security Police, Udupi & Member Secretary to Special Recruitment Committee for Technical Posts

Go for piped natural gas, ease strain on domestic LPG: Govt

Reiterates There Is No LPG Crisis, Advises Against Panic Booking

Atul Mathur & Dipak Dash | TNN

New Delhi: With the availability of LPG remaining strained, govt on Friday urged nearly 60 lakh households to switch to piped natural gas (PNG) to ease pressure on domestic cooking gas cylinders. It also appealed commercial establishments to take PNG connections.

It assured consumers that there was no crisis of domestic cooking gas cylinders and advised them to avoid panic booking. It asserted that states have begun cracking down on those indulging in black marketing and hoarding.

Petroleum secretary, Neeraj Mittal, and consumer affairs secretary, Nidhi Khare, separately met with food and supplies officials from states and UTs to familiarise them with the energy situation arising from the military conflict in West Asia and assured them of "continuous coordination and cooperation" by govt.

At a press conference, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in petroleum ministry, said nearly 60 lakh households in country have PNG networks nearby and can easily take connections. "In cities, commercial establishments affected due to LPG supply are also urged to get in touch with the city gas distribution network and take PNG connections. It is important that we reduce pressure on LPG a bit," she said, adding govt was not in a position to give full supply to all commercial consumers.

India imports over 60% of its LPG requirement, of which 85-90% comes through the Strait of Hormuz, which is currently disrupted. India has over 32.3 crore LPG customers, while the number of PNG consumers stands at more than 1.6 crore.

Govt had stopped distributing 19-kg commercial cylinders last week when the crisis intensified but later placed a smaller stock at the disposal of states to distribute them.

Since March 5, India has ramped up its LPG production by 30%. Emphasising that supplies for domestic consumers remained adequate across country, Sharma said fears of a shortage has led to a spike in LPG cylinder bookings — from 57.5 lakh during the pre-conflict days to 75.7 lakh on March 12, a 32% increase, reflecting a panic pattern. A 30% increase in LPG production means that India now has access to 52% of its requirement from domestic sources.

"I urge people to avoid panic booking. We used to distribute 50 lakh cylinders every day earlier and are maintaining it now," Sharma said, adding that people can book refills through digital modes — IVRS, SMS, WhatsApp and mobile app — and don't have to queue up at gas agencies. State-run oil marketing companies have increased call centre seats to 400 and telephone lines to 650 to register complaints.

TOI has learnt that in the meeting with petroleum and consumer affairs secretaries, state officials flagged LPG availability issue and sought clarity on stocks. A participant said that Mittal told them that supply to domestic consumers remains priority and that the Centre was tapping additional sources to meet the requirement.

Rajesh Kumar Sinha, special secretary in the shipping ministry, told reporters that of four Indian-flagged vessels on the eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz, one oil tanker, Jal Prakash, has managed to move out, while three remain with 76 Indian seafarers on board. This ship carrying crude is heading to Africa.

ANI

Workers unload LPG cylinders into carts for supply to houses amid reports of a nationwide shortage of LPG, in Patna on Friday

A village campus is beating the crisis with biogas & contingency planning

At a time when long queues for LPG cylinders are becoming common, a village campus near Gujarat's Vadodara presents a sustainable alternative. The campus of Muni Seva Ashram in Goraj runs solar-powered kitchens and biogas systems that prepare meals for nearly 5,000 people daily without relying on LPG. The campus also houses a cancer hospital and research centre.

At Mahakaleshwar temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, the temple committee is working out contingency plans. Temple committee PRO Ashish Phalwadiya said, "We did not experience any supply-chain break, either in PNG or commercial LPG cylinders, but contingencies are being worked out." Around 40 quintals of laddu prasadam is prepared every day at the laddu unit, which runs on commercial LPG. The temple, one of the 12 jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, receives between 1.5 lakh and 2 lakh devotees on a regular day. Between 5,000 and 7,000 people eat at the annakshetra daily. TNN

Switching from gas to induction? Here's what you need to know

Doreen.Bora@timesofindia.com

With LPG supplies under stress, many households are turning to electric options such as induction and infrared cooktops. But there is one big stumbling block: not every vessel works on every cooktop.

That matters even more in Indian kitchens, where cooking often involves kadhai use, tadka, bhuna masala, shallow-frying and deep-frying. So, before buying a new cooktop — or new utensils — here is a simple guide.

Image: AI

Induction vs infrared, what's the difference?

An induction cooktop heats the vessel directly and works only with utensils that have a magnetic base. An infrared cooktop heats the surface first and can work with a wider variety of utensils. It is generally less fussy, though it still performs best with flat-bottom cookware.

Which vessels/utensils will work on induction?

If a magnet sticks firmly to the bottom of the vessel, it will usually work on induction. If it does not, it probably will not. Utensils sold as "induction compatible" are the safest option. These usually work well:

- Cast iron
- Carbon steel
- Enamelled iron
- Some stainless steel vessels with a magnetic base

Which utensils usually do not work on induction?

These generally do not work unless they have a special induction base:

- Pure aluminium
- Copper
- Glass
- Ceramic
- Non-magnetic stainless steel

Is infrared easier to use?

One of the advantages of infrared cooktops is that they are usually more flexible in terms of cookware. But that does not mean every vessel performs equally well. Heavy, flat-bottom utensils still give the best results. Three things matter most in choosing a vessel for infrared: a flat bottom, a thick or heavy base and good stability on the cooktop.

Thin, warped or rounded vessels heat unevenly and are less efficient.

Can you use your regular kadhai?

Only if it has a flat enough bottom. That is where many Indian households run into trouble. A traditional kadhai often has a rounded bottom. On induction, the cooktop may not sense it properly. On infrared, it may heat, but not efficiently.

For Indian cooking, a flat-bottom, heavy-gauge kadhai is the safest and most practical choice.

Good options include:

- Tri-ply stainless steel kadhai with induction base
- Cast iron kadhai
- Flat-bottom carbon steel kadhai

Is aluminium a bad choice?

Not always. For induction, plain aluminium usually will not work unless it has an induction-compatible base. For infrared, aluminium can work well — but thin aluminium is not ideal. It can heat unevenly and may warp.

The same rule applies for tawas, frying pans and pressure cookers. For induction, choose utensils marked 'induction base'. For infrared, most will work if the base is flat and sturdy.

Can you deep-fry on induction and infrared?

Yes, but choose the right vessel. For frying, the utensil should be flat and heavy-bottomed and wide enough for stability. Don't overfill it with oil.

A light, narrow or rounded kadhai can be unstable on a glass-top surface. A wide, heavy, flat-bottom kadhai is better.

Can you make rotis and baingan bharta on these?

Yes, you can make rotis on induction and infrared, but without an open flame, you won't get the classic phulka puffing. You can puff it up a little by pressing gently on the tawa or using a separate method. A flat, heavy iron or steel tawa works best — thin tawas often heat unevenly.

Infrared can feel closer to gas than induction for rotis since it heats more like a traditional hotplate. Many rotis turn out poorly on cooktops because of the tawa, not the cooktop.

Similarly, brinjal can be roasted on a pan, but without direct flame it won't develop the same smoky, charred flavour as traditional bharta. On a tawa or pan, the brinjal can soften and brown a bit.

Ways people do it without gas:

- Oven / OTG / air fryer
- Electric grill
- Pan roast + smoked charcoal finish after
- Microwave/steam first, then sauté

Will frying, kadhai cooking be different from cooking on gas?

Yes, especially on induction. It heats very quickly, so people used to gas should avoid immediately switching to the highest setting. Start lower and increase gradually. That helps prevent overheating, smoking oil, or burning masala.

Indian cooking typically relies on curved kadhais, intense direct heat and frequent tossing — conditions that don't align seamlessly with flat electric cooktops. But for most home cooking, a flat-bottom kadhai is the best workaround.

Can you use old vessels with an induction converter plate?

It is possible, but it is usually not the best solution. Converter plates reduce efficiency and control. In most cases, it makes more sense to buy two or three good induction-compatible utensils instead of trying to adapt everything. A practical starter set that covers most daily Indian cooking would be:

- One flat-bottom induction-compatble kadhai
- One flat tawa or frying pan
- One induction-base saucepan or pressure cooker

In call with Modi, Iran prez seeks Brics role in peace push

▶Continued from P 1

India had intensified engagement with Iran in the past few days to stress the need for unimpeded transit of goods and energy.

According to an Iranian readout, President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran remained committed to expanding cooperation with New Delhi within frameworks such as Brics, which is currently chaired by India, and called upon the group of major emerging economies to play an active role in safeguarding peace and security in the region.

The Modi-Pezeshkian talks were followed by external affairs minister S Jaishankar's fourth conversation in past two weeks with his counterpart Seyed Araghchi, during which Brics-related issues were again discussed. India currently holds Brics presidency and Araghchi, as Iran said in a readout, sought condemnation of US-Israel "military aggression" by regional and global organisations.

"Referring to the importance of Brics as a platform for expanding multilateral cooperation, he (Araghchi) said the grouping should play a constructive role at the present juncture in supporting regional and global stability and security," said an Iranian readout of the foreign ministers' talks.

However, with both Iran and the UAE members of the group, it has been difficult for India as the chair to forge a consensus that could lead to a joint statement on the ongoing conflict. "As chair of Brics, India has been facilitating discussions among members through the Sherpa channel. Last virtual Brics Sherpa meeting was held on March 12. In addition, Indian leadership has been engaging with leaders of Brics members in the region. India will continue to engage," said a govt source.

According to Iran, Jaishankar expressed India's readiness to expand bilateral and multilateral cooperation in regional and international forums. He also emphasised the importance of finding ways to strengthen sustainable stability and security in the region as a "collective necessity". Jaishankar said in a post on X that Brics issues were discussed.

Iran joined Brics in 2024 and is hoping for support from India in its efforts to ensure the group condemns the US-Israel attacks. Unlike Russia and China, India has so far not condemned the attacks on Iran, but Modi, in his talks with the Iranian president, did express deep concern over the escalation of tensions and the loss of civilian lives as well as damage to civilian infrastructure. Without naming Iran, the PM has strongly condemned its attacks in the Gulf where India has deep energy and diaspora interests.

According to Iran, in his talks with Modi, Pezeshkian raised the killing of supreme leader Ali Khamenei and the attack on a girls' school in which, the president said, 168 students died.

"Indian PM Narendra Modi also expressed deep concern over the tensions in West Asia and emphasised that India is a friend of Iran. New Delhi, he said, will make its maximum effort to play a role in advancing diplomacy, noting that escalation of conflict is not in the interest of any party," said the Iranian statement on the talks.

According to Tehran, Pezeshkian told Modi that despite the recent crimes targeting infrastructure, Iran remained committed to expanding cooperation with India and other friendly countries within frameworks such as Brics and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and stressed the need for Brics to play an active role in safeguarding peace, stability, and security in the region.

Without naming Iran, the PM has strongly condemned its attacks in the Gulf where India has deep energy and diaspora interests

'1.5L Indians have returned from West Asia'

▶Continued from P 1

Since the conflict began, 1,50,000 Indian nationals have returned from West Asia, joint secretary (Gulf) in external affairs ministry, Aseem Mahajan, said. "None of them is reported to have serious injuries. Our mission is in close touch with the company concerned and local authorities and is rendering all assistance," he said.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said 117 Indian nationals have crossed over to Armenia from Iran through land border crossings and several of them have returned to India already. "We told all sides to adopt the path of diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the conflict as soon as possible," he said.

LPG shortage stalls Agra's petha industry

Agra: Petha industry in Noori Gate area has come to a near standstill as commercial LPG cylinders have become scarce amid tensions in West Asia, reports **Sudeep Lavania**.

Petha, a translucent and sugar-coated sweet closely associated with Agra, is part of a Rs 500 crore industry employing 5,000 people. Of 70 petha units in Noori Gate, 30 have shut as they are not receiving LPG cylinders. With manufacturing hit, other parts of the trade are likely to feel the heat.

Amid growing LPG anxiety, menus at schools, colleges being trimmed

Times News Network

Death, black marketing, theft, hotels overcharging, restaurants shutting down causing job losses — shortage of LPG cylinders due to the ongoing conflict between Iran and the US and Israel is upending lives and livelihood in a multitude of ways across the country.

LPG cylinder prices are being blackmarketed at double the rates — Rs 1,400 normally, Rs 2,800 now — in Tamil Nadu. About 40% eateries in Kerala and 30% in Karnataka have temporarily shut down, hotel associations of these states say. At Hingna industrial estate near Nagpur, over 70% MSMEs claimed to face serious operational difficulties due to restrictions of commercial LPG cylinders and rising fuel prices. In TN, consumer helplines received 70 calls related to overcharging at hotels and tea shops citing gas crunch. In Thiruvanthapuram's Chalai market area, a thief was spotted on CCTV walking away with a commercial cylinder from a hotel.

There's much more. The iconic 200-year-old Sri Ganesh Temple in Secunderabad has stopped distribution of annadanam and prasadam. Sweets cooked in high temperature flames — labanga latika, kalojaam, pantua, darbesh, among others — are off the shelves in Kolkata. So are dishes like handi biryani, mutton rezala, and dal makhani, which take more time to cook, from restaurant menus in the eastern megapolis.

In schools and colleges, menus too are being trimmed. In Bhopal, a crippling shortage of commercial gas cylinders has forced the town's premier educational institutions such as National Law Institute University and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research to slash hostel meals. It is a similar story in competitive coaching hub Kota town in Rajasthan. Several hostels and mess operators have downsized the menu, stopped serving snacks, and shifted to cooking in coal wherever possible. A hotel of Bharwad community in Gujarat reduced the number of rotis being served to students from 700 to 300. In Kolkata, Desun Hospital has temporarily restricted its menu to vegetarian and egg-based meals since non-vegetarian dishes generally require more fuel, said CMD Sajal Dutta. The effort is to prioritise the needs of patients over everybody else.

At Sehna village in Punjab's Barnala district, Bhushan Kumar, 60, was customer number 25 among 125 who had queued up for a LPG cylinder at 5am. At 7.50am, he collapsed. He was taken to hospital but died on the way.

In several tea stalls in Chennai, prices were hiked from Rs 3 to Rs 5. In Mogappair and Anna Nagar, the price of a glass of tea was hiked from Rs 12 to Rs 15 and coffee from Rs 15 to Rs 18. Vendors said the revised prices would remain until the gas issue settled. "Commercial gas now costs as much as Rs 5,000. We are also unsure about when we get a refill," a vendor said.

Hoteliering was hit hard in Kerala. "The worst hit are the eateries in urban hubs like Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, where fire-safety norms and congested buildings make switching to traditional firewood impossible. Out of the nearly one lakh hotels, small and big, nearly 40% have downed shutters," said N Abdul Razzak, general secretary, Kerala Hotel & Restaurant Association.

Families and small eateries across the country were adopting various methods to cope with the situation. In Punjab, dhabas are moving to earthen chulhas. This has increased demand for wood and coal. Some families are opting for small tandoors and kerosene stoves. Demand for induction cooktops has spiraled in Kanpur's Maniram Bagiya market, which has more than 150 shops selling electrical goods, according to Manoj Mehgani, president of Maniram Bagiya Electric Market.

Chefs at a leading Kolkata biryani chain use woodfire at their centralised kitchen on Friday amid disruptions in LPG supply

NHAI says no pothole on 'miracle recovery' stretch

But TOI Team Finds Damaged Patches On Route Taken By Ambulance

Keshav Agarwal | TNN

Pilibhit: Multiple cracks and potholes were found on a stretch of NH-74 where a critically ill woman from Pilibhit was revived, according to her family, after the ambulance carrying her home hit a bump. Following a report by **TOI** on the woman's recovery, National Highways Authority of India had disputed the references to potholes in the account.

In a letter issued on Wednesday, the authority said the highway stretches in the area were "pothole-free and trafficworthy" and maintained in accordance with prescribed standards. It further said that the Bareilly–Sitarganj section was under construction and temporary traffic diversions had been provided at certain locations in line with Indian Roads Congress guidelines.

However, a visit on Thursday by a **TOI** team on the route taken by the ambulance from Bareilly to Pilibhit — through Rithaura, Hafizganj and Nawabganj — found several damaged patches, including cracked surfaces and depressions resembling potholes, on the carriageway. Photographs taken at the sites, with GPS coordinates and timestamps, showed sections where the road surface appears uneven and broken.

Some stretches of the highway were also seen to be undergoing widening work, with traffic moving along partially completed sections and temporary surfaces at certain points. The stretch came into focus after the family of Vineeta Shukla (50) said she began breathing again when the ambulance transporting her home from a hospital in Bareilly got a jolt while passing over a rough patch of road. She was later admitted to another hospital in Pilibhit, where she recovered.

NHAI also said in its letter that the viral video related to the incident did not attribute the woman's recovery to a pothole, stating it only showed she "suddenly regained her breath" while being transported from hospital to home. Kuldeep Kumar Shukla, Vineeta's husband, told **TOI** on Thursday that he noticed her breathing again after the ambulance struck the pothole-riddled stretch of the highway.

"I had asked my family to prepare for her last rites. She was not breathing, there was only a sinking heartbeat. As the ambulance reached Hafizganj, it struck a large pothole and the vehicle moved violently. I noticed then that my wife started breathing normally again... I immediately informed my family to suspend all funeral preparations, and rushed her to the Neurocity Hospital in Pilibhit," Shukla said.

Dr Kamal Jindal, who examined Vineeta at Medicity Hospital in Bareilly (from where she was being taken by ambulance to Pilibhit), said there were "no reflexes in her brain and it was virtually inactive". On being asked whether she had been certified as "brain dead", Dr Jindal said "we normally do not label a patient 'brain dead' as it is usually done by a panel at medical colleges especially in cases of organ donation. However, we use the term to convey to the family in simple language that the patient's brain is not active."

Dr Rakesh Singh, neurosurgeon at Neurocity Hospital, Pilibhit, who treated Vineeta after she started breathing, added that her Glasgow Coma Scale (a 15-point neurological scale used to objectively assess a patient's level of consciousness following brain injury), had dropped to three points (deep coma) against the normal level of 15 points.

Cracked surfaces on the NH-74 stretch at Nawabganj (left) and Hafizganj, where the ambulance hit the pothole

Ready to work legally if ban on Maoist party lifted: Devji

U.Sudhakarreddy
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Hyderabad: A former veteran Maoist member, who recently surfaced after operating for several years underground, urged Telangana govt to push for lifting the ban on CPI (Maoist), saying the party was willing to function within the legal framework and disband its armed wing if given political space.

Speaking to **TOI**, Thippiri Tirupathi alias **Devji** said the demand formed the core of the proposals submitted to CM A Revanth Reddy. "In our meeting with the CM on Feb 27, we asked for lifting the ban on our party. We also asked him to recommend this to Union home minister Amit Shah. When we say we will work legally, automatically PLGA (People's Liberation Guerilla Army) will not exist," he said.

Devji said the CM responded positively but clarified that this fell under the jurisdiction of the Centre. He said the proposal was not to dissolve the Maoist party but only its armed wing. "Dissolving the military wing is different from dissolving the party," he said.

Devji also sought the release of jailed Maoist veterans, activists and sympathisers, arguing that they should be recognised as "political prisoners". He called for an end to what he described as harassment under the label of 'Urban Naxal'. "If you tell people to give up weapons and join the mainstream but then brand them 'Urban Naxals' and lock them up again, it will disturb peace," he said.

TIMES GLOBAL

** THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

THE BETTER I GET TO KNOW MEN, THE MORE I FIND MYSELF LOVING DOGS — CHARLES DE GAULLE

KIM KARDASHIAN AND KRIS JENNER DENY RAY J'S CLAIM THAT THEY RELEASED 2007 SEX TAPE: 'ACCUSATION UTTERLY FALSE, DISGUSTING'

LABRINTH SAYS 'F*** EUPHORIA' AND ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT IN CRYPTIC INSTAGRAM POST: 'I AM DONE WITH THIS INDUSTRY'

Hegseth: Iran's new supreme leader wounded, likely disfigured

Washington: Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is wounded and likely disfigured, US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said on Friday, questioning Khamenei's ability to govern after nearly two weeks of US and Israeli attacks on Iran. No images have been released of Khamenei since an Israeli strike at the start of the war that killed much of his family, including his father and wife.

"We know the new so-called not so supreme leader is wounded and likely disfigured. He put out a statement yesterday. A weak one, actually, but there was no voice and there was no video. It was a written statement," Hegseth said. "Iran has plenty of cameras and plenty of voice recorders. Why a written statement? I think you know why. His father is dead. He's scared and hurt, he's on the run and he lacks legitimacy."

An Iranian official said on Wednesday that the newly appointed supreme leader was lightly injured but he was continuing to operate, after state television described him as war-wounded. REUTERS

Man in Michigan synagogue attack lost kin in Israeli strike: Official

West Bloomfield: A man with a rifle who crashed into a large Michigan synagogue in what federal officials say was an attack had lost four family members in an Israeli airstrike in his native Lebanon last week, an official said Friday. Ayman Mohamad Ghazali, 41, a naturalised US citizen born in Lebanon, was killed by security after ramming into Temple Israel in West Bloomfield Township in a vehicle that then caught fire, according to authorities.

About 140 people — 106 kids and more than 30 staff — were at the synagogue, said Cassi Cohen, Temple Israel's director of strategic development.

Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer said the children attending school at the synagogue were aged five and younger. "This is targeting Jewish babies," Whitmer said. "That is antisemitism at its absolute worst." AP

Dem senators file resolution to keep Trump war powers in check on Cuba

Washington: Senate Democrats have filed legislation that would prevent the US from attacking Cuba without congressional approval as they seek to force a vote on President Donald Trump's stated goal of a "takeover" of the Caribbean country. The resolution filed Thursday by Democratic Senators. Tim Kaine, Ruben Gallego and Adam Schiff would require the president to remove the military from hostilities with Cuba and could receive a vote by end of the month.

"Only Congress has the power to declare war under the Constitution, but he operates with the belief that the US military is a palace guard, ordering military action in Venezuela, and Iran without Congress' authorisation," Kaine said. AP

Trump eases curbs on Russian oil, says 'will hit Iran very hard'

Prez: Will Escort Ships In Strait Of Hormuz If Needed

President Donald Trump said the US was going to be hitting Iran "very hard over the next week", shortly after issuing a partial 30-day waiver for purchases of sanctioned Russian oil, hoping to ease prices fuelled by the US-Israeli war on Iran. Prices have been whipsawing on Trump's changing comments on the likely duration of the war, which has prompted Iran to attack vessels in Strait of Hormuz.

Trump has previously said the war is "complete", and also promised to guarantee the safety of vessels in the strait. In a Fox News interview aired on Friday, Trump said the US would escort shipping there "if we needed to". Benchmark Brent crude eased about 0.6% to around $99.8, still up almost 40% since the start of the war.

As Israeli warplanes pounded Beirut's suburbs with air strikes, Lebanon's interior minister said authorities were unable to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of people who have sought refuge in the capital. Israel also dropped leaflets threatening Gaza-scale devastation as it deployed more troops to fight Iran-backed Hezbollah and warned of more attacks on Lebanon's infrastructure. Iran fired more missiles and drones at Israel, and Iranian drones were reported flying into Kuwait, Iraq, the UAE, Bahrain and Oman.

A large explosion rocked a central square in Iran's capital where thousands were gathered Friday for an annual state-organized rally to support the Palestinians and call for Israel's demise. Israel had warned that it would target the area in central Tehran. Iranian Press TV said a woman had been killed in the airstrike. President Masoud Pezeshkian, foreign minister Abbas Araqchi and security chief Ali Larijani all appeared in videos openly attending the rally in a gesture of defiance. "People are not afraid of these attacks. As you can see, people have come out in this rain, under these hardships," judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei said at the march. "We will not back down in any way."

In Washington, US defence secretary Pete Hegseth said that over 15,000 enemy targets have been struck. He also sought to address concerns about the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, saying: "We have been dealing with it and don't need to worry about it."

With gasoline and diesel prices rising at pumps around the world, the US on Thursday issued a 30-day licence for countries to buy Russian oil and petroleum products already at sea - where it is not uncommon for consignments to be sold or change their buyer. The US waiver on Russian oil was welcomed in Moscow but left Kyiv and its allies angry.

"Six members of the G7 expressed a very clear opinion that this was not the right signal," German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in Norway. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said the move could provide Russia with $10 billion, adding: "It certainly does not help peace." AGENCIES

AFP

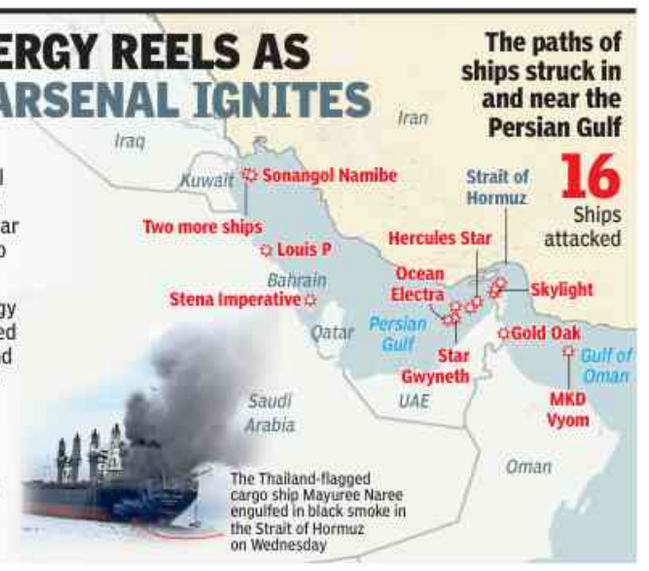
A fireball errupts from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted a building in the southern Lebanese village of Abbasiyyeh on Friday

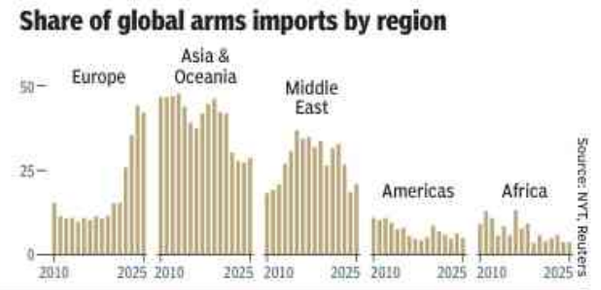
US offers $10m for info on top Iran leaders

The US state department offered a $10 million reward Friday for information about Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei and other top officials. Iranian interior minister Eskandar Momeni and minister of intelligence and security Esmail Khatib were among the 10 individuals on the state department list. "These individuals command and direct various elements of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which plans, organizes and executes terrorism around the world," the state department said. AFP

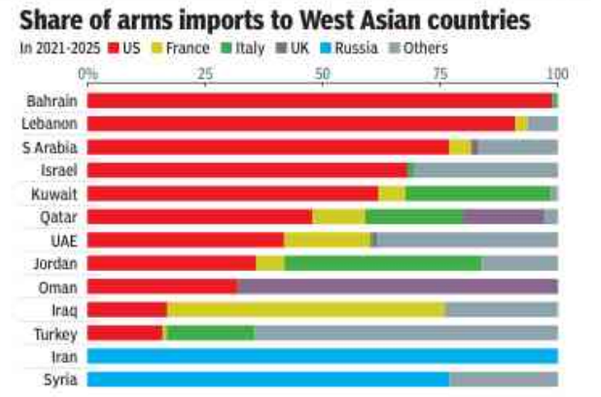
GLOBAL ENERGY REELS AS REGIONAL ARSENAL IGNITES

- At least 16 oil tankers, cargo and other commercial ships have been attacked in the Persian Gulf since the war began nearly two weeks ago
- The Israeli military has struck several Iranian energy complexes. Iran has launched attacks on oil production and storage facilities across the Persian Gulf
- Amid growing concerns about international trade, projectiles hit three vessels Wednesday in or near the strait. Hours later, the two Iraqi tankers were struk
- Before the war, around 80 oil and gas tankers typically passed through the strait, according to Kpler, an industry data firm. Now, barely one or two ships a day are able to cross
- The International Energy Agency warned Thursday that the war had caused 'the largest supply disruption in the history of oil market'
- International oil prices have spiked, and are up nearly 40% since the war began





- West Asia accounted for around 21% of global arms imports in 2025, according to data on arms trade released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri). Barring 2024, the region has imported over a fifth of the world's arms over the last 10 years
- The US was the biggest exporter of arms to West Asia between 2021 and 2025. The UAE bought over 13,000 missiles from the US in the last ten years while Saudi got 89 aircraft, over 150 armoured vehicles and 1,800 missiles
- All of Iran's imported arms came from Russia, based on Sipri's data. In the last 10 years, Iran has imported missiles, aircraft and air-defence systems all from Russia
- Nearly 73% of Iran's arms exports went to Russia



No hostile or friendly fire, says US as 6 crew killed in plane crash over Iraq

Washington: All six crew members aboard a US military KC-135 refuelling aircraft that crashed in western Iraq are confirmed to have been killed, the US military said on Friday. The military said the incident involved another aircraft but was not the result of hostile or friendly fire.

The deaths add to the seven US service members who have already been killed as part of US operations against Iran. "The circumstances of the incident are under probe. However, the loss of the aircraft was not due to hostile fire or friendly fire," a statement from U.S. Central Command said.

A US official said that the second aircraft involved in the crash, which landed safely, was also a military refuelling aircraft known as the KC-135.

The US has deployed a large number of aircraft in West Asia to take part in operations against Iran and the incident highlights the risk of not just operations, but of refuelling aircraft in the air.

The KC-135, built by Boeing in the 1950s and early 1960s, has served as the backbone of the US military's air refuelling fleet and is critical to allowing aircraft to carry out missions without having to land. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of Iran-backed armed factions, claimed responsibility for downing the refuelling aircraft. REUTERS

1 French soldier killed in Iraq drone attack

Paris: One French soldier was killed and six others were wounded after an Iran-made drone attack in northern Iraq that President Emmanuel Macron said was unacceptable and unjustified. The soldiers, among about 600 French personnel based in Iraq, were providing counterterrorism training in the region as part of an international coalition fighting Islamic State and were struck on Thursday just hours after an Italian base was also targeted in the area. "This attack against our forces engaged in the fight against Daesh (ISIS) since 2015 is unacceptable," Macron said in an X post overnight, confirming the death of one officer. "Their presence in Iraq is strictly within the framework of the fight against terrorism. The war in Iran cannot justify such attacks," added Macron. A French naval base in the UAE was hit a week ago, although officials sought to play down the attack at the time. REUTERS

Nato air defences have intercepted 3rd ballistic missile over Turkiye, says Ankara

Istanbul: Nato air defences on Friday intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Iran over Turkiye, the defence ministry said. It marked the third such incident since the start of the Iran war. Iran's embassy in Ankara immediately denied any involvement, saying "no projectile" had been fired towards Turkiye, but experts said it was unlikely. Residents in the southern city of Adana reported hearing a loud explosion and sirens sounding at Incirlik Air Base, which is used by US forces, in the early hours of Friday. No casualties were reported.

Just hours before the third missile was intercepted, Turkiye's transport minister said a Turkish-owned ship had crossed the Strait of Hormuz with Iran's permission, without giving any other details. AGENCIES

Caught between Hezbollah and Israel: Prof who lost colleagues

Kalyan.Das@timesofindia.com

Hours after two professors were killed in a bombing at Beirut's Lebanese University on Thur, Habib Al-Badawi, professor of international relations, Japanese studies and history at the state-run university, told **TOI** in an email response that daily life on campus had been overtaken by anxiety.

"We are watching our neighbourhoods reduced to rubble, our families displaced, and our futures suspended indefinitely," Al-Badawi said. "The psychological toll on the Lebanese people is immense."

The professor said that he was still to come to terms with the death of two of his colleagues — Hussein Bazzi, director of the faculty of sciences at the south Beirut campus of the Lebanese University, and faculty member, Professor Mortada Srour — in the strike on the university campus. "Frankly, I am quite shaken. Our daily routines have become fraught with uncertainty. Simple tasks such as buying groceries, getting children to school or going to work now involve navigating checkpoints," he said.

"Even in these extraordinary circumstances, people are finding ways to support one another. We are navigating a dangerous moment, but we hope peace will prevail," he said.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

WH divided: Trump aides debate exit vs escalation

Washington: A complex tug-of-war inside the White House is driving US. President Donald Trump's shifting public statements on the course of the Iran war, as aides debate when and how to declare victory even as the conflict spreads across West Asia.

Some officials and advisers are warning Trump that surging gasoline prices could exact a political cost, while some others are pressing him to maintain the offensive against Iran, according to interviews with a Trump adviser and others close to the talks. Their observations offer a previously unreported glimpse inside White House decision-making as it adjusts its approach to the biggest US military operation since the 2003 Iraq war.

Economic advisers and officials, including from the treasury department and the national economic council, have warned Trump that an oil shock and rising prices could quickly erode already weak domestic support for the war, said the adviser. Political advisers, including chief of staff Susie Wiles and her deputy James Blair, are making similar arguments, the sources said.

More hawkish voices urging Trump to sustain military pressure on Iran include Republican lawmakers such as US Senators Lindsey Graham and Tom Cotton, and media commentators such as Mark Levin, according to people familiar with the matter. They argue the US must prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and respond forcefully to attacks on American troops and shipping.

A third force comes from Trump's populist base and figures such as strategist Steve Bannon and television personality Tucker Carlson, who have both publicly and privately been pressing him and his top aides to avoid getting dragged into another conflict.

Asked for comment, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said: "This story is based on gossip and speculation from anonymous sources who aren't even in the room for any discussions with President Trump." REUTERS

China to donate $200k to kin of Iran school strike victims

China said on Friday it will donate $200,000 to the parents of students killed in what it called an "indiscriminate" missile strike on a school in Iran. Iranian media reports said funerals were held for at least 165 people, including kids, killed in the strike. Beijing's foreign ministry said Chinese Red Cross Society will donate $200,000 to the Iranian Red Crescent Society, specifically for "condolences and compensations" to the parents of dead students. The ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun called the strike a "severe violation" of international humanitarian law. AFP

Sri Lanka repatriates remains of 84 sailors

Sri Lanka on Friday repatriated the remains of 84 Iranian sailors who were killed when their frigate was sunk nine days ago by a US submarine, local officials said. An Airbus A340 chartered by Iran "left a short while ago carrying the remains of the sailors," an airport official said. The destination of the flight was not disclosed. AFP

UK's Labour seems to back Sikhs as separate ethnic grp

Naomi Canton

London: UK's Labour govt appears to be backing a campaign by British Sikh groups and MP Preet Kaur Gill to have data recorded and collected about Sikhs as an ethnicity rather than religion. UK govt departments do not currently collect ethnicity data on Sikhs or Jews but sometimes collect religious data.

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) recently finished a public consultation on adding ethnicities to its "ethnicity harmonised standard" — a list of ethnic groups used in govt surveys — to be used in the next census.

At a Westminster Hall debate on Wednesday organised by Gill, Cabinet Office minister Satvir Kaur said: "Let me be clear: the govt, ONS and GSS all recognise that Sikh identity and Jewish identity are ethnic as well as religious identities. Under the Equality Act, Sikhs and Jews are a racial group by reference to their ethnic origins. Both are also religious groups." But she said it was for the ONS to "reach an impartial, evidence-based decision" and pointed out not all ethnicities in the UK would fit on a survey.

The new list of recommended ethnic groups will be announced in autumn. They will be selected based on strength of user need, whether the information can be collected elsewhere, such as via a religion question.

At the 2021 census around 100,000 Sikhs wrote their ethnicity as Sikh in a "write in box", rejecting the "British Indian" option. The GSS said that an ethnic group that frequently appeared in the write-in box will have a stronger case for inclusion.

6 killed in Pak strikes in Kabul, border region: Af

Kabul: Afghanistan's Taliban govt accused Pakistan's military Friday of targeting homes in overnight airstrikes in Kabul and other areas, saying at least six civilians were killed and more than a dozen injured.

Afghan govt spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on X that Pakistani aircraft also struck fuel depots belonging to private airline Kam Air in Kandahar. "This company supplies fuel to civilian airlines as well as to UN aircraft," he said.

Pakistan's information ministry said armed forces carried out "successful airstrikes inside Afghanistan".

7 cops die in Pak IED blast: At least seven police personnel were killed in an IED blast in northwest Pakistan on Friday, cops said. The incident occurred in Lakki Marwat district when a police mobile was on routine patrol. AGENCIES

'Despite ban, 1/5th of Aus teens using social media'

Sydney: One-fifth of Australian teenagers under 16 were still using social media two months after the country barred platforms from allowing minors, industry data showed, raising questions about the effectiveness of their age-gating methods.

The number of 13- to 15-year-olds using TikTok and Snapchat, among the most popular social media apps with Australian teenagers, fell from before the ban took effect in Dec to Feb, but still more than 20% used the apps, according to a report by parental control software maker Qustodio provided to Reuters.

Platforms including Instagram, Facebook, Threads, YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat must block people aged under 16 or face a fine of up to A$49.5 million ($35 million).

A spokesperson for internet regulator eSafety Commissioner said the office was aware of reports that some under-16s were on social media and was "continuing to monitor for any systemic failures that may amount to a breach of the law". It was "drawing on a range of insights to assess compliance", the spokesperson added.

A spokesperson for communications minister Anika Wells said govt was clear "that increasing minimum age to access social media is a cultural change that will take time". A representative for Snapchat was not available for comment. A TikTok spokesperson declined to comment.

The data showed that the number of Australians aged 13-15 using Snapchat tumbled 13.8 percentage points to 20.3% from Nov to Feb, while the number in that age group using TikTok fell 5.7 percentage points to 21.2%. REUTERS

Shantanu Narayen, longtime CEO of Adobe, to exit amid AI disruption

Adobe Inc chief executive officer **Shantanu Narayen** will resign from his position atop the creative software giant amid scepticism about the company's ability to thrive in the AI era. Narayen, who was CEO for 18 years, will remain in the position until a successor is appointed, Adobe said Thursday. The 62-year-old Indian-American will stay on as board chairman.

The CEO change "adds questions around strategic continuity, capital allocation priorities and pace of innovation", Grace Harmon, an analyst at Emarketer, said in an email. "Investors will likely focus on whether incoming leadership maintains a balance between disciplined execution and aggressive AI investment, especially as competition in creative and enterprise AI intensifies."

The maker of Photoshop and other products for creative arts professionals is among a group of application software companies seen as struggling to win new customers in the face of AI upstarts. Adobe has worked to weave AI tools through its creative and marketing software and offers its own range of models.

Adobe's annual revenue multiplied almost six times to about $24 billion since Narayen took over at the end of 2007. He is often credited with steering one of the first successful transitions in software to a business model in which customers bought recurring subscriptions to bundles of products, rather than one-time purchases of individual applications. Still, Narayen's direction has been questioned by investors. Generative AI has made it easier to create visual media without Adobe's products. Many of the AI creative tools are built by competitors.

Narayen was born on May 27, 1963 in Hyderabad. He got a bachelor's degree in electronics and communication engineering from Osmania University and a master's degree in computer science from Bowling Green State University. He also did an MBA at Haas School of Business at University of California.

"We are focused on selecting the right leader for this next chapter of the company's growth and are grateful for Shantanu's continued leadership to ensure a smooth transition," said Frank Calderoni, the board's lead independent director. AGENCIES

A thought for today

The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled

PLUTARCH

Seas On Fire

Damage of wars on oceans is everlasting, yet invisible

There are some 16 US warships – stuffed with gazillion guns, aircraft, missiles, and ammo – in Arabian and Mediterranean seas. Strait of Hormuz is aflame, as Iran deploys explosive-laden boats, targeting fuel tankers. TV news runs, in a loop, videos of jet black plumes rising up from ships ablaze – but, never, ever will there be images of the total wreckage below. News won't talk about it, either. Thing is, war kills seas, devastates marine ecosystems, destroys coastal habitats. Few people care. There're no dramatic videos. There're no smart, easy-to-grasp data points on the damage. So, yup, no one's keeping tabs on warships' debris dumped into the seas. Or on environmental cost of ships sunk. IRS Dena was torpedoed in Indian Ocean – its debris will decay, corrode, and leak – metal scrap, toxic oils, chemicals, that'll poison, and choke marine plants & animals.

Visuals of overground warfare, on land ecosystems, is horrifying enough. But, it is well-established that war's impact on seas is worse. For a simple reason. Seas are interconnected, damage is carried forward. So, when Russia battles Ukraine, on Black Sea, fallout isn't contained to warring nations' coastlines. Connected to Mediterranean Sea to its south, war's debris wrecks its way through estuaries, salt marshes, lagoons, islands, home to dolphins, whales, seabirds, uncommon species, and 2,000 plant & animal species. Chemical pollution, heat, noise, anti-sub warfare, trigger changes in animal behaviour, and species composition. They disrupt migratory patterns, throw off nesting & feeding routes. And they kill infinite numbers of creatures, great and small. Biodiversity is resilience. War kills it.

Overground repercussions of land destruction, like in Gaza, or forests flattened – Ukraine rightly accused Russia of ecocide – are, however, the only talking points. Sunken ships, from two world wars, contain chemical poisons, unexploded munitions and, per IUCN, 6bn gallons of heavy fuel oil. Warming oceans have sped up their decay. So, ruinous oil spills are inevitable. Wars end, destruction undersea remains, in perpetuity. It's invisible to us. And, that ignorance is a profound tragedy.

You're Fired

Humanity's march, down to ChatGPT, is story of fire

There's so much anxiety about gas out there. But it isn't about gas, really. Deep down, it's about being human. We are children of fire, and its masters, too. On current evidence, our ape-like ancestors figured out how to manage fire – mostly started by lightning – about 1.5mn years ago. Then, by a lucky accident, they started cooking, which made food not only tastier, but also more nutritious, and easier to digest. That made large digestive systems unnecessary, along with large jaws and teeth. While apes chewed their stringy, fibrous food six hours a day; for us, one hour was enough. In fact, it left us with an energy surplus, which supports brain growth.

Human brains are so energy-hungry, they account for 20% of calorie burn at rest. So what? So this: without fire, there would be no Homo sapiens, and no ChatGPT. Fire also helped our brains grow, by letting us sleep long hours, without fear. A moonless night has, roughly, one-trillionth the light of a sunny day. And humans, with fewer rod cells in their eyes, are sitting ducks for leopards, and other nocturnal predators. Fire turned the scales, and not only against animals. Burning midnight oil became key to social mobility. Bricks, Roman cement, engines, cannon, Apollo missions, Tomahawk missiles, even electricity – largely – are fire's gifts. We need fire, and because gas is the only fuel most of us know how to use, we can't help being especially antsy when we can't get it.

Should Older People Be 2nd-Class Voters?

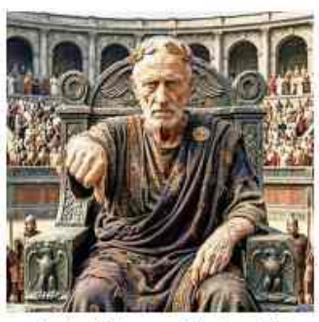
Those with their whole life ahead should have more say

Why do young people everywhere seem disenchanted with govt? A 2021 OECD survey shows only 37% in 18-29 age group trust govt, as against 46% in 50+ cohort. In S Korea, the gap widens to 17 percentage points. In Ireland, it's 38 points. Zoom out of this rich nations' club, and a 2020 Cambridge study makes similar findings around the world.

Perhaps, youth is hard to please. But if that's the case, why were 54% of 30-year-old Britons satisfied with govt in 1973? Why did satisfaction at that age increase to 57% in 1983, and 62% a decade later, before falling to 48% in 2010s?

The problem is not with youth but with the way democracies are functioning, says Harvard professor ***Samuel Moyn***, who diagnoses the problem as "gerontocracy". His book, ***Gerontocracy in America: How the Old Are Hoarding Power and Wealth***, sums up the problem in its title.

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



What's changed between, say, 1973, and now is that whole populations, not just leaders, have aged. In Britain, for example, half the population was younger than 33 then; now it's older than 40. Moyn mentions three things that make older presidents and PMs likelier now. One, old people generally vote for old people. Two, old people vote more than young people. Three: "The prevalence of aged politicians is almost certainly increasing the abstention of the young from politics and thus intensifying gerontocratic dominance…"

Gerontocracy also reinforces through wealth. Older people earn more, buy or inherit the best real estate, and network at the highest levels. Even if they don't contest an election, they can pursue their agenda by propping up a young candidate. "If the voters and the wealthy are old, it may not even matter whether the politicians are young."

But what is old peoples' agenda, and why is it a problem? Moyn says, "An ageing society is more set on preservation than on renovation." So, gerontocrats usher in tax cuts for the rich – themselves – rather than raising taxes to spend on schools. They place "high priority on their own needs like medicare and social security". On the economic front, they worry about inflation, not growth. Since the elderly know they have only a few years left, their worldview tends to be short-sighted. Hence, it isn't in a society's best interest, according to Moyn.

So, what can be done to prevent gerontocracy? We can't snatch wealth and property from the elderly, but Moyn suggests linking the "weight" of a vote to the age of the voter. Why? Because young people have a greater stake in every election, as they have more years to live. Since govt decisions shape the future, a 20-year-old should have a bigger say in them than someone who's 80: "Seniors are voting for potentially long-lasting outcomes they may never experience fully." Also, 18-year-old voters are the closest proxy for children who can't vote, so their votes should have more weightage, he says.

Moyn suggests a couple of ways to go about this: dock 10% of a vote's weight every two years after the age of 65, or give 80-year-olds one vote, 70-year-olds two, and so on, till 20-year-olds have seven votes each. The aim is not to disenfranchise the elderly, but empower the young in proportion to their remaining lifetime.

Running scared? Nope. Playing Smart

Too many critics of GOI foreign policy are preoccupied by whether India sounds fearless. But, we are in a world of weaponised hard power. So, the priority is to, somehow, maintain operational flexibility. That's what GOI moves, on Iran war, Chinese investment, Russian oil reflect

Syed Akbaruddin

Viewing India's foreign policy debate from outside the capital has its uses. Distance makes it easier to see how starkly arguments are drawn in Delhi, and how quickly the actual constraints on Indian policy disappear from view.

Today, the sharpest criticism of Indian foreign policy is that it has tilted in the wrong direction: too deferential to Washington, too comfortable in its signalling towards Israel, and too ready to adapt under American pressure, while underestimating the wider signal this sends.

That criticism comes in three broad forms: dependence, asymmetry, and signalling. The dependence argument is that Delhi increasingly trims policy, to remain within an American comfort zone. The asymmetry argument is that India is more restrained in responding to American and Israeli uses of force, than to the retaliation that follows. The signalling argument is that India increasingly accepts the optics of a wider US-Israel frame.

GOI's recent move on Chinese-linked investment points to something larger. India did not ease Press Note 3 because distrust of China disappeared. It adjusted because the demands of manufacturing, technology, and capital began to outweigh the signalling value of blanket rigidity. The real story is not alignment, but exposure.

Indian foreign policy should now be read not through the old alignment-vs-non-alignment frame, but as an effort to manage exposure. Key exposures are energy, technology, capital, supply chains, and security. Each of these can now be weaponised by others, whether through sanctions, export controls, shipping disruption, investment restrictions, or conflict. Seen this way, some apparent inconsistencies look less like confusion, than like selective risk management.

The Russia oil episode is more complicated than the above criticism suggests. India bought Russian crude at scale, because discounted oil helped contain inflation, and ease pressure on growth. When the costs of that position rose, Delhi adjusted. One reading sees capitulation. Another sees a state trying to keep energy affordable, without inviting punitive fallout. For an import-dependent economy, it may not look elegant. It was still an effort to protect room for growth.

The Iran episode sharpens the asymmetry critique, but it also reveals the order of India's concerns. India described developments in the Gulf as a matter of great anxiety, and called for dialogue, after the US-Israeli strikes on Iran triggered retaliation. Critics note the imbalance. India showed more visible urgency when

Image: AI

Gulf stability, shipping, and energy flows were at risk, rather than when the original strikes took place.

Wider international response reflected a similar pattern. On 11 March, Security Council adopted Resolution 2817, condemning Iran's retaliatory attacks on Gulf states and Jordan, but issued no comparable condemnation of the earlier strikes on Iran.

That asymmetry reflects not just political preference, but India's deep exposure to the Gulf. The region bears directly on growth, inflation, remittances, energy security, and household stability. When order in the Gulf is shaken, the effects are quickly felt across India's economy.

That is where India's material dependence is greatest, and where its diplomacy is bound to be especially careful. That may not satisfy critics, but it explains more than moral outrage does.

India learned this lesson long ago. In 1962, China exposed the limits of rhetoric without leverage. In 1971, facing war and external pressure, India turned to Soviet Union for strategic insurance, when doctrine alone would not do.

Taken together, the lesson is the same: principles matter, but when security is at stake, states preserve themselves through leverage and partnerships, not rhetorical consistency alone.

Here, the criticism is strongest, but incomplete. It is most persuasive when it warns that tactical adjustment can harden into dependence, and that signalling can slip into self-subordination. It is weakest when it assumes that autonomy is proved mainly by keeping declaratory distance from US.

That is an older way of measuring freedom of action. For India today, the more serious question is whether it retains operational autonomy: enough energy flexibility, economic resilience, technological access, and strategic choice to avoid being trapped by any single pole.

India was once poorer, but louder. Now it is wealthier, and more guarded. The contrast is real, but the usual conclusion is too easy. Declaratory non-alignment carried fewer costs, than today's world of weaponised interdependence. A richer India has more power, but also more exposure.

The real question is not whether it sounds fearless, but whether it remains free to choose. That is why Indian foreign policy should be judged not by abstract purity, but by whether Delhi can reduce exposure without surrendering agency.

In a fractured order shaped by American overreach, Chinese pressure, and weaponised economic power, that will not always look elegant. But for India, inelegance is not the worst sin. Misreading the structure of the problem, is the greater danger.

The writer is a former permanent representative of India to UN

Loads Of Research Says: Don't Marry. So, Why Do We?

Economists, sociologists, psychologists…show how the wedding industrial complex takes a toll on individuality, and even on sleep. Here are 5 reasons, why marriage is bad for us, and one reason, why we won't let it go

Arash Rudra

In the short video, a couple are discussing marriage. She asks, "Babe, what is the ideal age to get married?" He gives an answer, worthy of the canned laughter that follows it: "Biologically 15 years. Legally, after 18. Culturally, 24-28 years. Economically, above 30. And logically, NEVER."

Of course, internet is awash with such videos. People are forwarding it every second, confident of a chuckle at the receiving end. And, it's not just online humour. In offices up and down the world, the same kind of joke is a face-to-face staple of the watercooler conversation.

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

Marriage is one of humanity's most durable inventions – right up there with bread, taxes, and the habit of giving advice. But all this joking about it, shows something is seriously changing. Structural quirks baked into marriage's design, are beginning to feel less cute, more unpleasant.

People now pause, before signing what is, theoretically, a lifelong social contract. And many different sciences – behavioural economics, psychology, sociology – have taken a shot at explaining why marriage sucks. We list just a few insights.

Freedom tax | Chicago economists, and Nobel prizewinners, Gary Becker and Theodore Schultz, have framed marriage through household production, where time, labour, and money are jointly allocated, in a cooperative enterprise. In theory, cooperation increases efficiency. In practice, it also introduces veto power.

Marriage quietly retires the luxury of unilateral decision-making. Sociologists call this "household bargaining", which sounds civilised, but often resembles a budget meeting that never quite ends.

Married peeps make noticeably fewer independent lifestyle choices than their single counterparts, whether it concerns spending, or social plans, or the small matter of moving cities. "I will do this," slowly morphs into, "Should we do this?" What looks like a grammatical tweak is, in fact, a profound constitutional amendment, in the republic of personal autonomy.

Consumption interruption | Marriage also performs another impressive administrative feat: it merges two financial systems, even if these seem designed on entirely different planets. What begins as romance, soon acquires the texture of a joint budget spreadsheet.

US National Survey of Families and Households has done a longitudinal study (that's the fancy term for a study that collects info on the same group over a long period of time). It suggests that disagreements about money are the single strongest predictor of divorce – outranking disputes about children, sex, or even the perennial battlefield of household chores. One partner may see saving as a moral virtue, the other regard spending as the best expression of being alive. One person's "necessary investment" can look to the other, like an "unnecessary extravagance".

Image: AI

Thermostat war | As India enters summer, some of us are perfectly happy with fans, while others insist on ACs. Love may be warm, but not necessarily at the same temperature. So, one partner complains, "Why is it freezing in here?" And the other, "A bedroom isn't a sauna."

This squabble too has respectable scientific explanations. Thermophysiology researchers have found that many building temperature standards were, historically, calibrated around the resting metabolic rate of a 70kg, 40-year-old man. The broader point is, shared indoor environments often run warmer or cooler, than half their occupants would ideally prefer. So, moments after the thermostat is nudged upward by one party, the other nudges it downward. A cardigan appears. A window opens. And this is not the only tug-of-war.

Blanket inequality | What begins as an equal and democratic distribution of bedding at 11 pm, often evolves, by 3 am, into a highly unequal arrangement, in which one party sleeps warmly while the other suffers Arctic conditions. Studies of co-sleeping suggest that it frequently reduces sleep quality, for at least one partner.

Wendy M Troxel's research, presented through the Sleep Research Society, has confirmed that a partner's movements during the night can, repeatedly, interrupt the other person's sleep cycles. In other words, marriage is bad for uninterrupted REM sleep. And the blanket, like many shared resources, tends to migrate toward whoever pulls hardest, in the middle of the night. Somewhat like geopolitics these days.

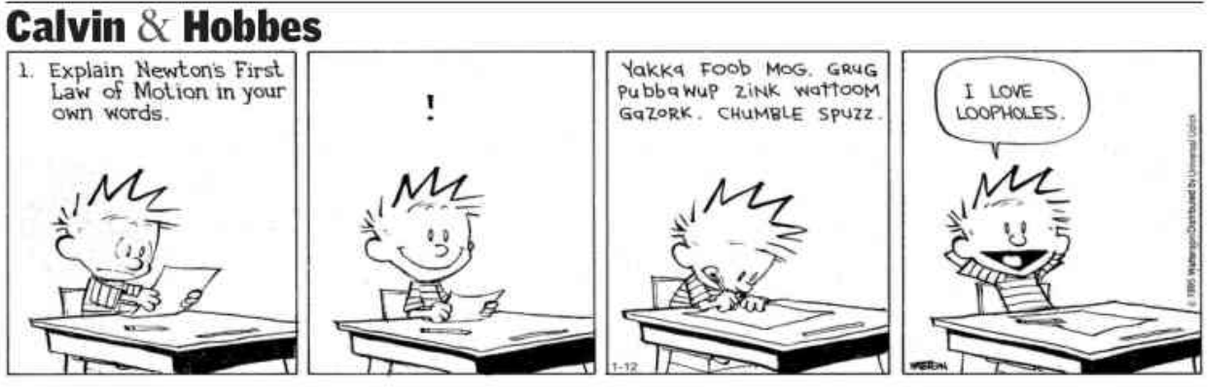
Minor tiffs, major rifts | Decades of research, by psychologist John Gottman, has shown that couples can easily slip into negative interaction cycles. In these loops, a small disagreement quietly recruits larger emotions, until the original issue – say, whether dinner should involve pasta or leftovers – becomes incidental.

He identified criticism, defensiveness, contempt, and stonewalling as the "four horsemen". Once these riders arrive, even the most innocent conversation can gallop into emotionally charged territory. The question "What shall we eat tonight?" can rapidly develop into a Greek tragedy.

Conclusion: Less a fairy tale, more a complex operating system, marriage, thus, comes preloaded with several structural strains. And yet, people continue to sign up for it, often with remarkable enthusiasm. This suggests something mildly inconvenient for economists: human relationships are not entirely rational enterprises. They run on a peculiar blend of emotional attachment, cultural expectation, habit, and optimism. And the stubborn belief that one's own version of the arrangement will, somehow, be smoother than the statistical average.

So, marriage persists. It may be inefficient, and occasionally absurd. But whatever boffins say, humanity appears determined to keep running the experiment anyway – one wedding invitation at a time.

Calvin & Hobbes


1. Explain Newton's First Law of Motion in your own words.
!
Yakka foob mog. Grug pubbawup zink wattoom gazork. Chumble spuzz.
I LOVE LOOPHOLES.

Sacred*space*

Be grateful for what you already have while you pursue your goals. If you aren't grateful for what you already have, what makes you think you would be happy with more.

Roy T Bennett

The Glass Ceiling Is Not Outside – It Is Within

Jaya Row

Can you imagine the world without Google? Then how can you live life without a guide? Gita gives the roadmap that takes you from mediocrity to excellence.

A talented sportsperson first visualises his goal – the trophy. Then he pours his time, energy, and effort into achieving it. This means fewer hangouts with friends, staying away from his favourite food, and not lazing on a Sunday morning. Yet, it never feels like sacrifice, because the goal excites him far more than what he must give up.

In the same way, begin life with a clear vision of what you want to achieve. The glass ceiling isn't outside – it is within you, in your thinking. Visualise excellence in your chosen field, in the field of your passion. Aim to be the best at it. Set smaller milestones along the way. Work dedicatedly, consistently. Love your work. Be devoted to it. And finally, work hard. The sharper your efforts, the quicker you move forward towards your goal. You will, then, not even feel tempted to dissipate your energy in random activities.

Now suppose you achieve your goal – the Olympic gold, business success, fame, and wealth. Are you fulfilled? That strange inner emptiness that drove you forward in the beginning still lingers. You begin asking, what next? Why do I still feel incomplete? Is there a way to reach lasting happiness?

That's where Gita steps in. It introduces you to yourself. You are born with amazing equipment – a body, a mind, and an intellect. But were you ever given a user manual? It's like buying the most sophisticated gadget, without knowing how to use it.

Sense contact gives instant happiness. The first mango of the season tastes divine. But overindulgence dulls the joy. The more you consume mindlessly, the less you enjoy. Learn the art of discriminate contact, so the enjoyment lasts a lifetime.

We seek satisfaction through action, but it often ends in pressure, comparison, and burnout. Gita introduces the concept of *yajna* – action performed in a spirit of service and sacrifice, for a higher purpose. Act with the attitude of giving, not grabbing. Modern research confirms it: givers thrive, excel, and succeed. The law is simple – give and you gain; grab and you lose. All givers are happy. And grow to their potential.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Relationships begin beautifully, but expectations and demands create friction. Romance turns to resentment. The days of wine and roses, become days of whine and neuroses! Learn unconditional love. Love others irrespective of any return, tangible or intangible. And people naturally respond with warmth and loyalty. They go beyond the call of duty to do things for you. True love empowers. Your influence grows. Your happiness multiplies. You emerge as a powerful leader.

The intellect is designed to control the whims and fancies of the mind, as well as the urges of the senses. But a weak intellect falls prey to the mind. A strong intellect helps you master yourself – and the world. Gita helps refine your intellect. You are then able to conceive the subtle thought of Atman, Spirit.

Everything in the world is temporary, passing, ephemeral. But there is something in you that is permanent. That is the Spirit, Atman, your real personality.

Jaya Row conducts Gita webinars every Saturday, 6-7 pm on YouTube. WhatsApp 99200 54000 for details

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

The Week That Was...

Sensex Marks Worst Week Since May '20 As War Ravages Mkts

Equity indices extended their losses to post their biggest weekly drop in years, as the escalating war hiked oil prices above $100/barrel. Sensex slid 5.5% in its worst week since May 2020, while Nifty fell 5.3% this week, its biggest drop since June 2022

Sensex -5.5%

Sensex Gainers

NTPC	1%
Power Grid Corpn	0.6%
Sun Pharma	0.1%

Laggards

L&T	-12.9%
Mahindra & Mahindra	-12.1%
UltraTech	-11.4%

GOLD -0.4% | CRUDE 4.5% | BITCOIN 2.8%

3.2%

CPI inflation in Feb, driven mainly by increased food and beverage prices. Ongoing supply disruptions might lead to further increase, economists predict

Source: screener.in, ETIG, Reuters

Silver tumbles 4%, gold declines 1.2% on strong dollar

New Delhi: Precious metal prices declined up to 4% on Friday, with silver tumbling to Rs 2.7 lakh per kg and gold sliding to Rs 1.6 lakh per 10 grams amid a strong US dollar and uncertainty over global monetary policy. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal slumped by Rs 11,000, or 4%, to Rs 2,65,500 per kilogram from Thursday's closing level of Rs 2,76,500 per kg. In the bullion market, gold of 99.9% purity also declined by Rs 2,000, or 1.2%, to Rs 1,63,200 per 10 grams. The yellow metal finished at Rs 1,65,200 per 10 grams in the previous session. In the international market, spot silver was trading nearly 1% lower at $83.1 per ounce, while gold went up marginally to $5,088 per ounce. Gold fell about 2.1% this week after giving up gains last week, too. AGENCIES

crazy bosses
THIS AI'S INSIGHTS ON LEADERSHIP ARE AMAZING — CLEARLY IT'S BEEN THERE AT OUR MEETINGS
ART: IAN BAKER
SUNILAGARWAL.IN

Britannia rules out mfg disruption over supplies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Britannia Industries said its manufacturing operations have not faced any significant disruption due to industrial gas supply concerns linked to the conflict in West Asia, issuing a clarification after market rumours triggered enquiries from stakeholders.

In a statement issued on Friday, the company said it had taken note of reports suggesting potential disruptions to industrial gas supplies in India because of the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region, but clarified that its operations continue to run normally. "The company has not experienced any significant disruption to operations at its manufacturing facilities on account of the supply of industrial gas," Britannia said.

The maker of brands such as Good Day and Marie Gold added that it currently has adequate levels of finished goods across its supply chain network to meet market demand. Britannia also said its manufacturing facilities rely on a mix of fuel sources, including LPG, PNG, biomass and liquid fuels. This allows the company to switch between fuels, where technically feasible, if supply conditions change.

The clarification comes at a time when businesses across sectors are closely watching developments in West Asia.

Govt ready with ₹1L cr fund to tackle global headwinds

To Be Financed Via Fresh Cash Outlays & Internal Reallocation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid the uncertainty caused by the conflict in West Asia, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced a plan to set up a Rs 1 lakh crore Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), aimed at providing fiscal headroom to respond to challenges.

"ESF will help India (deal) with global headwinds such as the recent crisis, unanticipated supply chain disruptions, unexpected shocks to sub-sectors in the economy and any other event that may have significant fiscal implications. So, in anticipation of what cannot be anticipated, we are coming up with (this)," Sitharaman told Lok Sabha as she outlined govt's steps to tackle the current crisis, while slamming the Opposition for creating doubts among the people. Govt will fund ESF through a combination of fresh cash outlays of Rs 57,381 crore this year and through internal reallocation in the coming years.

> ESF will help India (deal) with global headwinds such as the recent crisis, unanticipated supply chain disruptions, unexpected shocks to sub-sectors in the economy and any other event that may have significant fiscal implications. So, in anticipation of what cannot be anticipated, we are coming up with (this)
>
> For fertiliser subsidy, there will be no shortage. There is (enough) provision for all farmers in this supplementary demand
>
> There is no increase in expenditure beyond the BE of 2025-26 due to the second supplementary demand for grants
>
> —NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FM

Economists are suggesting that govt will have to earmark more funds for oil and fertiliser subsidies in case the war persists and supply disruptions continue. It is also expected to push up inflation and there are demands from exporters for additional support to tide over the challenges.

She assured the House that there will be no shortfall in fertilizer subsidy. "For fertiliser subsidy, there will be no shortage. There is (enough) provision for all farmers in this supplementary demand. An additional Rs 19,200 crore is being granted for this, so there is no shortage of any kind for farmers," said Sitharaman, while replying to the debate on the second batch of supplementary demands for grants.

Lok Sabha cleared the supplementary demand for grants of Rs 2.8 lakh crore, which involves an additional cash outgo of Rs 2 lakh crore.

FM also secured approval for Rs 23,641 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to ensure food security for the vulnerable, along with Rs 41,400 crore for defence services, while maintaining that the new spending will not push the fiscal deficit beyond govt's target.

"There is no increase in expenditure beyond the BE of 2025-26 due to the second supplementary demand for grants," she said. The house was adjourned for the day after the passage of the supplementary demands through a voice vote, as Sitharaman asserted that the introduction of these demands does not indicate poor initial budgeting but reflects a flexible and responsive governance model. She noted that govt has restricted such demands to a "bare minimum" of two every year.

Red alert: Investors lose ₹34L cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: It's two weeks into the war in West Asia, and investors in India have lost a staggering Rs 34 lakh crore worth of wealth due to the strong sell-off in the stock market. The turmoil has also shaved off a little over 5,250 points or 6.5% from the sensex, as foreign funds have doubled down on their selling in the domestic market.

The ongoing war has resulted in the price of crude oil surpassing the $100/barrel mark, a multi-year high. It has also weakened the rupee to a historic low and forced foreign funds to take money out of India at a pace not seen in the last 14 months.

In Friday's market, the sensex started on a weak note with the index down nearly 500 points. It slid through the session to fall to an intra-day low at 74,455 points and closed just a tad above that level, at 74,564 points, down 1,471 points or 1.9%. On NSE, Nifty too took a similar path to close at 23,151 points, down 488 points or 2.1%. The day's slide came on the back of the price of crude oil—India's biggest import item—trading above the psychologically important $100/barrel mark. And the rupee sank to a new record low of 92.48 against the dollar.

Japan, India Worst Hit; US, China Pare Losses

Two Weeks In: How Global Markets Fared Since The War Began (% change (Feb 27 - March 13))

Nikkei (Japan)	-8.5
Sensex (India)	-8.3
Nifty 50 (India)	-8.1
FTSE 100 (UK)	-5.9
Ibovespa (Brazil)	-5.2
Dow Jones (US)	-4.7
Hang Seng (HK)	-4.4
S&P 500 (US)	-3.3
Nasdaq Comp (US)	-2.3
Shanghai SE (China)	-1.6

FPIs | Net outflow at ₹57,953 cr ($6.3bn)

DIIs | Net inflow at ₹70,527 cr ($7.6bn)

Total investor wealth lost was ₹34 L cr with BSE's market cap now at ₹429.4 L cr

US Data as of 21:30 IST

Source: BSE, ETIG

The day's slide in the market was led by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). At close of session, this influential investor group had net sold stocks worth Rs 10,717 crore, the biggest single-session net outflow by foreign funds since Feb 28, 2025, ETIG data showed. On Friday, there were also talks of margin-related selling after several days of slide. Often, speculators borrow money to take positions in stocks against collateral, part of which is in stocks. According to rules, if the value of collateralised stocks fall below a certain pre-set level, the lenders can sell off those stocks. In a falling market, such margin-based selling can aggravate the selling. "There were MTF (margin trade finance)-related selling in Friday's session," said people in the know.

"In addition, given the volatile geopolitical situation, traders were not willing to carry their positions through the weekend and liquidated that which pushed stock prices further down," the people said. At close of session, of the 30 sensex stocks, 28 closed in the red, with L&T, HDFC Bank and SBI contributing the most to the day's loss, BSE data showed.

No respite for rupee, falls to new low of 92.48 vs $

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee closed at 92.46 on Friday after touching a record low of 92.48, down 27 paise from the previous close of 92.19, as high crude prices and weekend demand for dollars weighed on sentiment. Market participants said currency losses were partly limited by likely central bank intervention.

Energy prices remain elevated as the Gulf conflict approaches the two-week mark, raising concerns about prolonged geopolitical tensions and keeping financial markets on edge. Foreign investors have sold nearly $5 billion of domestic equities this month, adding pressure on the currency, while domestic equity markets declined sharply with benchmark indices falling about 2% during the session.

"Crude near $100 and a stronger dollar are keeping markets on edge, while heavy FII outflows—about Rs 46,000 crore in eight days—have added pressure on the rupee. Most Asian currencies have weakened and supply-chain risks persist. RBI is intervening to curb volatility, but its role is largely a speed breaker. Unless geopolitical tensions ease, the rupee may remain under pressure; importers should hedge dips below 92 while exporters may wait for spikes," said KN Dey, a forex consultant. Global currency markets also reflected the strain. Most Asian currencies weakened, while the euro slipped to a seven-month low against the dollar as investors moved towards the greenback.

The dollar index rose to around 100, signalling broad strength in the US currency.

India's forex reserves fall most in over a yr

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves fell to $716.8 billion in the week ended March 6 from $728.5 billion in the previous week, RBI data showed. The $11.7 billion decline in reserves last week came amid dollar sales of about $6.1 billion by the central bank to support the rupee against pressure stemming from the Iran war and surge in oil prices.

The rise in US yields and the dollar strength further contributed to the drop in reserves, analysts said. Much of the decline in the week came from foreign currency assets, which fell $9.8 billion, while the value of gold reserves dropped $1.6 billion. REUTERS

Exporters likely to get relief package

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The commerce department is working on measures to provide support to exporters to help them beat the impact of the West Asia conflict as it prioritises shipment of perishables, including by air.

Besides, exporters have been asked to look at other markets to minimise the effect of the war in a region which is a top destination for Indian goods with goods worth $59 billion shipped. "There will be some impact, which may be visible in this month's data. But exporters have been told to look at other markets and fill the gap, wherever there is scope," said a senior govt official.

> **The finance ministry, along with IBA and RBI, are weighing options related to credit and are likely to meet exporters next week**

Govt is also working with authorities in West Asia to see if goods can be routed through other ports.

While trade bodies are petitioning for govt support, something they usually do, officials said that insurance support is something that is being examined by the commerce department. "There is some thinking going on...insurance coverage and support for exporters. We will try to do that. We are evaluating options," the official said. The conflict has resulted in a spike in ocean freight, air transport, and insurance premiums because of disruptions in the movement of oil and gas consignments. The finance ministry, along with Indian Banks' Association and RBI, are weighing options related to credit and are likely to meet exporters next week.

After 5 yrs, Centre to call off IDBI sale

Says Bids Are Lower Than Reserve Price

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Five years after starting the process, the Centre has called off the disinvestment of IDBI Bank after the bids received found to be lower than the reserve price.

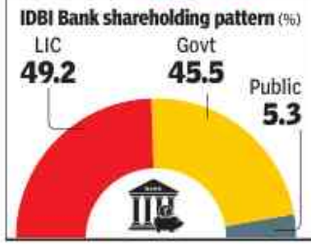
Those familiar with the process said govt will decide the future course of action, including calling for fresh bids so that it can realise the best value. Given the uncertainty caused by the conflict in West Asia, the process may, however, take time and a formal decision to stop the process will have to be approved by the Union cabinet.

IDBI was the only privatisation plan that was moving, with others including Shipping Corporation, BEML and Bharat Petroleum having been postponed indefinitely. Govt's plan to sell its stake in a public sector bank and an insurance company has made no progress, leaving Air India stake sale as the only case of privatisation during NDA's 11-year run at the Centre.

Fairfax, owned by billionaire investor Prem Vatsa and an Emirati bank were said to be the only two remaining players in the fray for the stake being offered for sale by govt as well as LIC, which is the largest shareholder.

BLOW TO SELLOFF

IDBI Bank shareholding pattern (%)



- Fairfax and an Emirati bank were the only two remaining players in fray
- The development will also come as a blow to govt's disinvestment target
- Govt has budgeted to mop up close to **₹80,000 crore** in next financial year

The development will also come as a blow to govt's disinvestment target, given that it had budgeted to mop up close to Rs 80,000 crore in the next financial year. A section within govt was also seeing the stake sale to set off the stage for more disinvestment in the coming months as opposed to the current strategy where the Centre has relied on offers for sale and initial public offers to generate resources.

The choppy markets have already made the task difficult and with valuations falling, govt had postponed the planned sale of shares in LIC to the next fiscal year. IDBI Bank shares fell 6.6% to close at Rs 92.20 on BSE.

For IDBI Bank too, this is the latest setback in its evolution plan, which has seen the Centre pump in large sums of money to revive it after a disastrous effort to convert it into a universal bank, with a large pool of legacy bad debt and sticky assets.

In fact, LIC itself was roped in by govt as a bailout of sorts and made to buy into what was originally a development financial institution that survived on subsidised capital from the Centre, which stopped flowing once the economy was liberalised and RBI put in place a strong regulatory framework.

Now, USTR to probe 60 nations for forced labour

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a fresh bid to get trading partners on the negotiating table, the US Trade Representative has launched a fresh section 301 probe against 60 countries, including India, for alleged failure to impose and effectively enforce a prohibition on the import of goods produced with forced labour.

The investigation ordered Thursday, came a day after a similar action related to structural excess capacity and production in manufacturing sectors against 16 countries, including India

After the US Supreme Court setback on reciprocal tariffs, American President Donald Trump had announced his intent to deploy section 301 against countries and the move is seen as an attempt to gain leverage once the current 10% tariff on countries expires in 150 days.

The USTR notice announcing the probe referred to a 2024 report by the US Bureau of International Labour Affairs, which had listed 28 products produced in India and alleged that it involved the use of forced labour or child labour. It included bricks, carpets, hybrid cotton seeds, embellished textiles, garments, rice, sandstone, shrimps, stones, sugarcane, tea, and thread or yarn. Besides, when it came to downstream products, it accused India of purchasing palm fruit from Malaysia, which used child labour or forced labour. Govt officials, however, dismissed the allegations. Trade experts saw the two actions aimed more at China than India and said that almost all large trading partners including China, Australia, Canada, the UK, Vietnam and Mexico are facing the investigation.

"Although a majority of countries prohibit forced labour as a matter of law within their jurisdiction, such prohibitions are insufficient to prevent firms from profiting from forced labour.

India-UK FTA may roll out mid-April

New Delhi: India and the UK free trade agreement is expected to be implemented from mid-April this year, industry minister Piyush Goyal said. The pact needs approval from the UK parliament before it is implemented. Goyal said it will be the fastest agreement to be approved by the UK parliament. AGENCIES

Trade deal on, will respond to US action, says India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt is examining the legal and economic implications of the two section 301 probes launched by the US Trade Representative, while asserting that it remains engaged with the Donald Trump administration on the bilateral trade deal.

"It is reiterated that the two sides remain engaged for a mutually beneficial trade agreement," a commerce department spokesperson said.

Govt officials said that chief negotiators have held several rounds of discussion and the pending issues are also being resolved. "We are trying to see that we keep the agreement ready, but signing will only happen at an opportune time, because this agreement is based on comparative advantage, preferential access to the US market," a senior official said. The officials said that India or other countries that have agreed to deals, will not sign the agreements once there is clarity on how Trump intends to impose tariffs and the extent of levies.

The US tariffs are not going away and will be calibrated and placed at a level where India is going to get a comparative advantage vis-a-vis its competitors in the US market, an official added.

Panel calls for making UPI viable, better cybersecurity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The standing committee on finance has flagged concerns over the financial sustainability of digital payments, gaps in formal lending, cybersecurity weaknesses in banks, and declining insurance penetration in its 32nd report presented in March 2026 while examining the "demands for grants (2026-27)" for the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the finance ministry.

The committee, which examines the budgetary demands and policies of the ministry, reviewed the functioning of the DFS, the nodal department for banking, insurance and other financial services.

The panel raised concerns about the sustainability of digital payments and warned that rapid growth of the Unified Payments Interface requires a viable revenue model. It observed that "the sustained expansion of UPI requires a viable revenue mechanism to support these investments, especially to promote UPI in Tier 3-6 cities". While noting that the incentive support provided by govt "constitutes only 11% of the cost incurred by the industry," the committee said "establishing a viable revenue mechanism is critical to ensuring the UPI ecosystem achieves financial sustainability without perpetually straining the government exchequer".

According to the report, in the "absence of MDR, adequate budgetary support by govt is essential to ensure that there is no further strain on the UPI payment ecosystem".

On banking, the committee highlighted what it called a "critical structural deficit in formal lending" and recommended a policy shift in the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. It urged govt to "officially pivot its policy focus from mere account acquisition to active usage, increased digital literacy and sustained, outcome-based financial utilisation". The panel said that to support the objective of Viksit Bharat 2047, bank-led credit growth had historically been the strategy followed in developed economies.

'DEVISE SUSTAINABLE REVENUE MECHANISM'

- Lok Sabha's standing committee on finance said "establishing a viable revenue mechanism is critical to ensuring the UPI ecosystem achieves financial sustainability **without perpetually straining the government exchequer**"
- According to its report, **in the absence of MDR, adequate budgetary support by govt is essential** to ensure that there is no further strain on the UPI payment ecosystem
- The report also **raised concerns over cybersecurity and financial fraud**
- In the insurance sector, the committee said **"overall insurance penetration has structurally declined"**

Accenture names leaders for reinvention unit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Accenture has announced a new leadership team for its Reinvention Services unit as part of an organisational overhaul aimed at accelerating the delivery of AI-driven solutions for clients. The new structure, effective March 31, will be led by Manish Sharma, its chief strategy and services officer.

Under the new model, the company will organise its services around how clients operate, offering end-to-end solutions through seven units called Reinvention Partners, each focused on transforming key business functions.

The cybersecurity practice will be led by Harpreet Sidhu, while Ajoy Menon will head the Digital Core unit supporting technology modernisation, including data, cloud and AI. The finance unit will be led by Arundhati Chakraborty, who will also oversee the firm's practice helping companies build global capability centres. The company's digital experience and marketing arm, Accenture Song, will be led by Ndidi Oteh.

Alongside the Reinvention Partners, the new structure includes a client success unit to strengthen customer engagement. Offerings and Products will be overseen by Senthil Ramani. "Our Reinvention Services leaders bring together the full breadth of Accenture to create solutions to our clients' most complex problems and deliver more value faster," CEO Julie Sweet said.

Steel cos cut output on gas supply woes

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New Delhi: Faced with supply constraints in industrial gases and disruption in global shipping routes triggered by the West Asia conflict, steel companies across the country are cutting production, senior company officials said.

They said the steel sector is facing pressure on several fronts, including shortages of LPG and LNG, which has started to affect production and logistics, disruption in raw material flows of limestone from Oman and the UAE, increased freight rates, which are hurting margins and order cancellations of some export shipments to West Asia . Abhyuday Jindal, MD of Jindal Stainless, said fuel constraints forced the company to cut capacity at plants. "Due to the heavy dependence of stainless-steel manufacturing on industrial gases such as propane, LPG and natural gas, several processes across our plants are adversely impacted.

Given the constraints in fuel availability, our plants are operating at a rationalised capacity," he said. MSME companies are also seeing production cuts. Harsh Bansal, MD of BMW Industries, which produces value-added steel products, said one of the company's plants is running at around 50% capacity after supply constraints.

'HAD WE LOST, I WOULD HAVE PACKED MY BAGS AND GONE HOME'

In the cauldron that was the Eden Gardens in March 2001, John Wright — the first foreigner to coach India — witnessed the ebb and flow of the Test, with all its drama, emotion and sheer improbability. Twenty-five years later, the New Zealander tells TOI from Christchurch, of the pressure, the tactical decisions and the far-reaching impact of beating Australia

WRIGHT

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TOI Exclusive

When you look back at that Eden Gardens Test, 25 years later, what stands out the most for you?

I can't believe it's 25 years already! I had never seen crowds like that before. It was packed to the rafters. Things looked bleak for us on Day 3. But then came that incredible turnaround over the next two days, thanks largely to that sensational partnership between VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid. It eventually culminated in Harbhajan Singh's bowling heroics on the final day. The pressure on us was enormous. Australia were the world champions, and they had been winning everything.

What were the circumstances around the Indian team before that match?

It was still my early days as the first foreign coach of the Indian team, and Sourav Ganguly was also a relatively new captain. The odds were stacked against us. Before the series we had a preparatory camp in Chennai with our physio Andrew Leipus. The big question we kept asking ourselves was simple: How do we beat Australia? I think we prepared extremely well for that challenge.

How did the absence of Anil Kumble shape the team's plans?

Our most experienced spinner, Anil Kumble, was injured and unavailable. The selectors had identified a young off-spinner named Harbhajan Singh and this series ended up defining his career. Looking back, I would rank this series with the 2004 series win against Pakistan in terms of its importance.

The turning point of the Test was VVS Laxman's promotion up the order. How did that decision come about?

After the first innings we were asked to follow on, but Laxman had already batted beautifully and scored 59. We were also trailing 1-0 in the series, so in a sense we had nothing to lose. I remember listening to Ian Chappell on television commentary. He's one commentator whose views I value greatly. Ian suggested that India should promote Laxman up the order because he was in terrific form. What he said made a lot of sense.

We wanted someone who could play aggressively and put pressure on Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne. Sourav and I sat down after the first innings and agreed that promoting VVS was the best way forward. I've always believed that the captain is the central figure in a team. The coach is more on the periphery. But in this case, our collective decision worked perfectly.

What made Laxman's innings so remarkable?

What fascinated me the most was the way he played Shane Warne. He often played him against the spin and also got to the pitch of the ball so effortlessly. It was a masterclass on how to play spin. After tea that day he played two glorious off drives on the up: one against McGrath and the other off Jason Gillespie. I remember thinking: how on earth does he play like that? It was so regal.

Apart from batting, how else did Laxman contribute to the team's dynamics and development?

Laxman was the bridge between the younger players and the seniors in the squad. If I remember correctly, he was sharing a room with Zaheer Khan. We had a policy at the time where a bowler would room with a batter. Laxman spent a lot of time giving Zak (Zaheer) advice on his batting. During my early stint as coach, Sourav and I focused on three key areas: improving close catching, sharpening running between the wickets, and raising overall fitness levels. We also wanted the lower order to contribute more so that we wouldn't collapse after being 200/5. The only thing missing in that squad was a genuine all-rounder.

How crucial was Rahul Dravid's contribution?

Absolutely. Rahul deserves enormous credit. He was pushed down to No. 6 in the second innings. It was a demotion, but he was a sport. His 180 was monumental. Laxman and Dravid were a terrific pair. They were also involved in another remarkable partnership against Australia in Adelaide in 2003. Rahul was in an incredibly productive phase of his career then. Whether it was Headingley in 2002, Adelaide in 2003 or Lahore in 2004. He was truly our rock.

Harbhajan Singh's bowling on the final day was legendary. Who were the other unsung heroes?

Harbhajan's performance, including that famous hat-trick, is rightly remembered. But we shouldn't forget Sachin Tendulkar's spell either. He picked up three crucial wickets. The pitch was gripping on the final day, and it was a masterstroke from Sourav to give Sachin the ball. I also remember SS Das taking two outstanding catches. There were contributions from everyone in that match.

What do you recall about that manic final day?

It was incredibly tense. I watched from a distance as the drama unfolded. Eden Gardens had turned into a cauldron. The ebb and flow made it riveting. I've always believed India has the best cricket fans in the world and they deserved every bit of the entertainment they got.

How important was that win for the team?

The victory gave us enormous confidence heading into the third Test in Chennai, which we also went on to win. It also extended my tenure as Team India's coach. I stayed for another four years. If we had lost that series, I would have packed my bags and returned home. At the time, everything was happening so quickly that you didn't fully absorb it. Looking back, I think that victory injected self-belief in the team. It also paved the way for the overseas successes that followed. ■

LET ME IN! As word spread that India were on the ascendancy, all roads led to the Eden Gardens

Pix: TOI, Getty Images

MASTER AT WORK: Sachin Tendulkar appeals for Matthew Hayden's dismissal during the Eden Test

A GRAB OF TOI'S DAY 4 REPORT OF THE TEST

387 minutes, 357 runs, no wicket!

Day 4 Brief Scores: Australia 445 in 131.5 overs (Steve Waugh 110, Matthew Hayden 97, Justin Langer 58, Jason Gillespie 46; Harbhajan Singh 7/123) vs India 171 in 58.1 overs (VVS Laxman 59; Glenn McGrath 4/18) and (following on) 589/4 in 165 overs (VVS Laxman 275*, Rahul Dravid 155*)

On Day 4, VVS Laxman became the highest individual Test scorer for India, surpassing Sunil Gavaskar's 236* against West Indies in Chennai in 1983. Laxman's 275 then become the highest Test score on Indian soil, bettering West Indian Rohan Kanhai's 256 during the 1958 Kolkata Test. Laxman and Dravid became the third Indian pair to bat through the day. Others before them were Pankaj Roy-Vinoo Mankad (vs New Zealand, Chennai 1956) and Gundappa Viswanath-Yashpal Sharma (vs England, Chennai 1982)

CRICKET CATHARSIS IN KOLKATA

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To this day, there have only been four instances – yes, only four – when a team following on has won a Test match. That's four out of roughly 2,600 Tests over 149 years.

And yet, when one talks about the third such instance in the game's history, it's not only about statistics, not only about player profile, not about centuries scored or wickets taken. It's about 'atonement' trumping a sense of 'guilt'. It's about a cocky determination taking a bull run by the scruff of its neck. It's about a David telling a Goliath that "the last word shall never be said" – almost like a Marlow in Joseph Conrad's 'Lord Jim', making a profound philosophical exposition on a will to triumph beyond ambiguity, limitations and the near-impossibility of reaching at a definitive conclusion, until the very end, or shall we say 'until the last ball is bowled'!

To continue with the Conradian analogy, the March 11-15, 2001, India-Australia second Test was in more ways than one a battle between guilt and atonement; sympathy and judgment; self and the other ...

Seated in the press box on the uppermost tier of the BC Roy Club House for five days, the imageries just kept flowing in a stream of consciousness of sorts – with poetic justice unmistakably ensconced in India's 171-run win, after being dismissed for that exact same total in their first innings.

It's one match that remains firmly etched in memory – as much for the dramatis personae as it was for the drama: Indian skipper Sourav Ganguly infamously keeping his Aussie counterpart Steve Waugh waiting for the toss; and Waugh "reciprocating" with an open off-side field when the Bengal southpaw came in to bat. Given Ganguly's penchant for off-side strokeplay, Waugh threw the gauntlet, daring him to play to his strengths, while reposing faith in his own credentials to stymie the enemy after 16 Test wins on the trot. The 2001 Kolkata Test was redemption and atonement for the home team and its legions of fans.

Having suffered a 10-wicket defeat in Mumbai days ago, India were yet again staring down the wrong end of the barrel by the third afternoon at Eden Gardens.

And speaking of 'stream of consciousness', one was mortified as the bitter memories of the 1996 India-Sri Lanka World Cup semifinal and 1999 India-Pakistan Test came rushing in – leaving one to wonder whether 'Blood, Bottle, and Bisleri' would once again rain on 'Golgotha' (a news magazine's headline for its cover story). On both those occasions, crowd trouble over an imminent Indian defeat had seen all hell break loose at the venerated Eden.

But destiny had something else in store on the banks of the Hooghly in 2001.

For once, instead of objects being hurled from the stands in frustration, Eden Gardens saw 80,000-strong fans banging their empty plastic water bottles in a calypso to egg on Ganguly's men, who were in hot pursuit of an improbable win.

For once, morning didn't quite show the day as redemption for the home fans and their team alike came through the heroics of two soft-spoken but never-say-die crusaders –Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman–who traded their capes for India caps.

That Dravid, who until then had a lean patch in the series, didn't show up at the post-match press conference, went to serve as a perfect foil to an Indian captain exhorting the media to ask questions "only in English" to hat-trick man Harbhajan Singh, leaving the off-spinner at his wits' end and scribes in splits.

Minutes later, as a composed Waugh walked in for the presser, it was 'calm of mind, all passion spent'.

Cricketing justice at its cathartic best.

Chinnaswamy gets nod?

Bengaluru: Two days after the IPL fixtures, including the season opener, were allotted to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here, the expert committee constituted by the state government inspected the venue on Friday. It is learnt that the panel has given the go-ahead for the venue to host the matches, although an official confirmation from the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) is still awaited.

In a media statement, the KSCA said, "The discussions were constructive and positive, and all stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that the matches can be conducted in a safe, well-regulated, and seamless manner."

The Chinnaswamy Stadium is set to host two games in the first phase, scheduled to be played from March 28 to April 12. TNN

SNAP SHOTS

Bahrain and Saudi F1 races set to be cancelled

The Bahrain and Saudi Arabian Formula One Grand Prix to be held next month are set to be cancelled due to the conflict in West Asia. Multiple sources told Reuters an announcement, seen within the sport as just a matter of time, was expected by Monday.

Former AIFF gen secy Kushal Das dies: Former All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das, who played a significant role in organising the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup in the country, died in New Delhi on Friday. He was 66. The KSFA mourned the demise of Das.

Chelsea captain James signs new deal: Chelsea captain Reece James signed a new six-year contract at Stamford Bridge. A Chelsea academy graduate, James has been at the club since he was six and the 26-year-old wanted to remain at the club for what he hopes are his "peak years".

Neto handed one-match suspension: Chelsea forward Pedro Neto has been fined 70,000 pounds ($93,000) and suspended for one match for misconduct after he was sent off in the Premier League defeat by Arsenal this month, the Football Association said.

Mancini unable to return: Al Sadd coach Roberto Mancini will not be present for Friday's Qatar Stars League match against Umm Salal as he has been unable to return to Doha due to the conflict in the Middle East, the club said on Thursday.

Thunder edge past Celtics: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, setting the NBA record for consecutive games with 20-plus points while lifting the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 104-102 win over the Boston Celtics. The reigning MVP surpassed Wilt Chamberlain's 63-year-old NBA record.

Bengaluru FC ready to face tough test from Bagan

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BFC

GEARING UP: Bengaluru FC players during a training session

Bengaluru: The odds are stacked heavily against Bengaluru FC even to salvage a point against Mohun Bagan Super Giant, but the Blues, who can lift their game against tougher opponents, will come out all guns blazing on Saturday night when the two teams face-off at the Sree Kanteerava stadium here.

Bagan, who have won all their four matches and scored 14 goals, should face a stiff test at the Fortress guarded by India No. 1 Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and the defence line led by Rahul Bheke. BFC coach Renedy Singh has tried his best to get the best out of his wards but it's still a tough task considering all the challenges he faced including a token pre-season.

ISL PREVIEW

"The last few matches, they did well and scored goals. But then I would like to concentrate on our squad and take the positives out of our last few games. We started well against Delhi but had a bad game against Punjab. We won our last match and I want my players to perform as they did in the first half against Mohammedan SC," the coach told reporters on the eve of the match.

"It's a big challenge but we have to fight it out. When we played here last time, we did well. It's 11 vs 11 and I want the players to give their 100 percent and perform well in all the three zones. We should attack in numbers and when we defend we should be careful not to concede from set pieces," Renedy added.

The visitors could be without their striker Robson Robinho, but the Mariners still possess enough firepower in Dimitrios Petratos and Jamie Maclaren. At the other end, Vishal Kaith will be wary of Ashique Kuruniyan's deep runs through the left flank. The India star, who returned to BFC this season, will have a clear idea of how to make inroads. It is going to be a star-studded action with the selection of India's top players including Sunil Chhetri, Ryan Williams, Anirudh Thapa and Sahal Abdul Samad lining up, on either side of the pitch. While Bagan is on top of the standings with 12 points, edging Jamshedpur FC on goal difference, Bengaluru are in sixth place with seven points. Third placed FC Goa have eight points.

Today's matches: In Kolkata: East Bengal vs Kerala Blasters FC (5 pm). **In Bengaluru:** Bengaluru FC vs Mohun Bagan Super Giant (7.30 pm). Live Sony Sports.

Russell leads Mercedes one-two for sprint race

Championship pacesetter **George Russell** took pole position on Friday for the Chinese Grand Prix sprint race, leading a Mercedes one-two ahead of Kimi Antonelli. Russell clocked 1min 31.520sec around the 5.451km Shanghai International Circuit, 0.289sec quicker than Antonelli with world champion Lando Norris 0.621sec behind his fellow Englishman in third.

Joining Norris on the second row for Saturday morning's 19-lap race will be Lewis Hamilton, winner of the China sprint a year ago.

CHINESE GP

The seven-time Formula One world champion was fourth in his Ferrari, 0.641sec slower than Russell. "The car's been feeling amazing," said Russell, who leads the championship after winning the season-opening race in Australia last weekend.

"We knew after Melbourne we had a really good car. The engine's performing really well. And today it was a real joy to drive, so I'm happy," added Russell. Italian teenager Antonelli said he had room for improvement. "The pace is very strong. Just didn't put the lap together at the end on the softs. Still some work to do. It's all to play for tomorrow," said the 19-year-old.

The McLarens left it till late in the final qualifying session to go out for their single flying lap, hoping to take advantage of the track at its quickest. It paid off as Norris got ahead of the two Ferraris and Oscar Piastri split them, coming in fifth fastest. "Actually pretty happy to beat both of the Ferraris today because they seem pretty good the whole day," said Norris. "Satisfied, good position for tomorrow. Certainly things have been better this weekend." Hamilton, fourth last week in Australia, said he had enjoyed a good Friday again in Shanghai, where he took a surprise sprint pole this time last year for Ferrari.

"Really pleased with the session, my team did a really great job," said Hamilton. "The car generally felt great, it's just we're losing on the straights (to Mercedes), so yeah we have a lot of work to do."

His teammate Charles Leclerc, third in Melbourne last week, was sixth fastest. Pierre Gasly was seventh for Alpine. The Red Bulls struggled for pace again with their new in-house power units replacing Honda as engine supplier from this season and still getting to grips with the new era regulations. Four-time world champion Max Verstappen was eighth, a colossal 1.734 sec adrift of Russell, and Isack Hadjar was only 10th. Russell dominated in practice, topping the timesheets throughout on both medium and soft tyre compounds, clocking 1min 32.741sec to head yet another Mercedes one-two. Norris was 0.555sec behind in third, with his teammate Piastri next. AFP

Kishan leads, Akaash second

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Former national champion Kishan R of Karnataka kept his lead after the second round in the men's division in the National Tenpin Bowling Championships here on Saturday.

Kishan began the second block, on the Medium oil condition, with an impressive score of 246. He showed remarkable consistency with scores of 226, 227, 225, and 246 in the next four games. With another 199 in the sixth game, Kishan finished with a total pinfall of 5136 across 24 games, topping the leaderboard with an average of 214. Meanwhile,

TENPIN BOWLING

defending champion Akaash Ashok Kumar climbed to the second position with a total of 4910 to trail Kishan by 226 pins. Delhi's Dhruv Sarda (4895 pins) and Bengal's Beni Gopal Lahoti were in the third and fourth positions respectively. Former champion Vijay Punjabi of Karnataka came up with a strong performance to rise to the 5th position. **Results: top 10 (Karnataka unless mentioned):** 1. Kishan R (5136, avg 214), 2. Akaash Ashok Kumar (4910, 204.58), 3. Dhruv Sarda (4895, 203.96, Del), 4. Beni Gopal Lahoti (4810, 200.42, Ben), 5. Vijay Punjabi (4768, 198.67), 6. Sahil Punjabi (4742, 197.58), 7. Ganesh NT (4710, 196.25, TN), 8. Shanmugananda (4667, 194.66), 9. Anand Babu (4665, 194.38, TN), 10. Mahipal Singh (4661, 194.21, TN).

Satwik-Chirag pair pull out

Basel: Top-seeded Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty pulled out of the Swiss Open here on Friday ahead of its quarterfinal clash after a shoulder issue troubled the former. Rankireddy and Shetty were scheduled to clash with Denmark's Christian Faust Kjaer and Rasmus Kjaer in the last-eight pairs stage of the Super 300 badminton tournament.

The 25-year-old from Amalapuram, known for one of the fastest smashes in world badminton, has often struggled with his right shoulder. "It is an old injury, hopefully he can recover fast. This will take a week at least," Malaysian coach Tan Kim Her said. PTI

BEL down SRI to enter semifinal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Anirudh Srinivas and skipper Chitti Babu stole the limelight as BEL Sports Club entered the semifinals of the KSCA Group II (Div II) league-cum-knockout cricket tournament with a 16-run win over South Railway Institute, Mysuru here recently. Asked to bat, BEL struggled to put runs on the board as the top order departed in quick succession. Anirudh rescued BEL with a quickfire half-century to help them reach 156/9 in 20 overs.

Reeling at 36/7 in 9.4 overs, Anirudh along with Nikhilesh Thakur stitched together the highest partnership to turn the innings around. The duo added 60 off 34 deliveries for the eighth wicket. Although Nikhilesh, who struck a blistering 41 off 16 deliveries, departed in the 16th over, Anirudh kept the board ticking alongside Raghunandan H (18).

The pair added 55 off 25 deliveries for the ninth wicket to help BEL post a respectable total. For SRI, Dhakshath P (3/30) and Surendra Rathore (2/12) were the leading wicket takers. In reply, SRI were restricted to 140/7 in 20 overs. While Yashwanth J top-scored with a 37-ball 42, Babu led the attack with the ball with a three-wicket haul. Meanwhile, Continental Automotive CC, Bhagirathi Group and Infosys CC won their respective quarterfinal matches to enter the semifinals.

Brief scores (quarterfinals): BEL SC: 156/9 in 20 overs (Anirudh Srinivas 54 n.o, Nikhilesh Thakur 41; Dhakshath P 3-30, Surendra Rathore 2-12) bt **South Railway Institute, Mysuru: 140/7 in 20 overs** (Yashwanth J 42, Surendra Rathore 39; Chitti Babu 3-26). **Bosch SC, B'luru: 146/3 in 20 overs** (Samarth Srinivas 61, Sharath Srinivas 59 n.o) lost to **Continental: 147/4 in 19 overs** (Krishnamurthy T 27, Thejas L 36, Rishab Krish 29, Karthik J 28 n.o). **Titan: 167/4 in 20 overs** (Mohith BA 97 n.o, Pavan Kumar 32; Melu Kumar 2-21) lost to **Bhagirathi: 171/2 in 17.5 overs** (Luvnith Sisodia 62, Aarav Mahesh 37 n.o, Shaun Joseph 44 n.o). **Infosys: 159/7 in 20 overs** (Vineeth B 59; Yashwantha 3-30, Vijay Bhosale 2-35) bt **B'lore Telephones: 108/9 in 20 overs** (Rakshith K 50; Vineeth B 2-25, Pradyumna Srivatsa 2-8).

Excise & Customs outplay AGORC

Bengaluru: The Central Excise & Customs rode on an all-round effort to register a 43-run win over AGORC in the KSCA Group I (Div I) league-cum-knockout cricket tournament here recently.

Invited to bat, Excise & Customs rode on half centuries from Niranjan (92) and

GROUP I, DIV I

Snehal Kauthankar (84) to post a challenging total of 225/4 in 20 overs.

The opening pair got off to a strong start, adding 144 off 83 deliveries. While Snehal hammered a 43-ball 84, Niranjan, who fell eight short of his century, scored a 53-ball 92. In reply, AGORC were restricted to 182/8 in 20 overs. Darshan MB ripped through the AGORC batting with a five-wicket haul.

Brief scores: Central Excise & Customs: 225/4 in 20 overs (Snehal Kauthankar 84, Niranjan 92, Samarth R 30; Sunil Kumar 2-22) bt **AGORC: 182/8 in 20 overs** (Nikin Jose 35, MS Bhandage 67; Darshan MB 5-30). **HAL: 108/9 in 20 overs** (Sumukha Prasad 28; Vikas Chanalia 2-24, Vikas Doddamani 2-20, Abhishek HR 2-31, Sachin Gankal 2-14) lost to **DELL: 114/6 in 14.2 overs** (Gajjala Kumar 3-33, Rahul Prasanna 2-20). **SBI: 150/8 in 20 overs** (Prakhar Chaturvedi 35; Pradeep T 3-31, Anand Doddamani 2-22) lost to **RWF: 156/2 in 16.2 overs** (Sagar Solanki 63, Rohan Patil 58 n.o). TNN

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TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

ALEXANDER SCORES 20 PTS FOR 127TH STRAIGHT GAME, BREAKS CHAMBERLAIN'S NBA RECORD

CHELSEA'S JAMES SIGNS NEW SIX-YEAR DEAL, SAYS WILL STAY WITH CLUB IN 'PEAK YEARS'

India's triumph in the 2026 T20 World Cup was engineered by IPL specialists who have benefited from the talent stable and tactical laboratory of the competitive franchise model

CHAMPIONS OF TWENTYPLENTY

PTI

KINDERGARTEN OF CRICKET: The T20 World Cup winning batch owes its success to playing in the IPL

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Soon after defending champions India exited the 2009 T20 World Cup in England before the semis, then India head coach Gary Kirsten said the gruelling IPL, held a few months earlier in South Africa, had left his players "fatigued."

Kirsten stressed that if the cricket calendar continued to be so packed, players might have to be pulled out of the IPL before the next World T20. Considering that MS Dhoni & Co had been on the road for quite a while then, Kirsten's observation wasn't off the mark. However, it also gave ammunition to those who would blame the IPL every time India lost on the cricket field. The South African was gagged by the BCCI after that presser in Nottingham.

Almost 17 years on, perceptions around the IPL have changed, thanks to Team India clinching back-to-back titles at the 2024 and 2026 T20 World Cups. In white-ball cricket, particularly T20s, the IPL has become India's biggest 'USP'. The batch that just triumphed in the T20 World Cup is essentially an IPL generation of players who grew up watching and playing in the league. Starting with captain Suryakumar Yadav, it's a team of IPL T20 specialists. That's one reason India looked a cut above the rest, racing to 250-plus scores thrice in the tournament — twice in the knockouts.

"It has bridged the gap between domestic and international cricket, which wasn't the case earlier. Players now understand how to adapt and execute under pressure, something that was lacking before the IPL. They now respond well to pressure and even thrive under it," former India leg-spinner Sairaj Bahutule, who earlier served as spin-bowling coach of Rajasthan Royals (2018-21 and last year) and will take up the same role with Punjab Kings in IPL-2026, told TOI.

Bahutule said the narrative has completely changed for batters. "They don't play safe cricket now. It's about being aggressive and taking on the bowler. They don't worry about who's bowling. They watch the ball and hit it. Each batter has a role in the IPL. Openers know they have to go hard in the powerplay. Within the powerplay too, there are phases — say the first two overs and the next two — and batters understand how to push."

Surely, the league has helped bowlers, too. Says Bahutule, "Bowling has become tougher because there are often 200-plus scores in the IPL. But it also encourages bowlers to be innovative and fearless. As you saw, Arshdeep Singh had a plan to bowl wide yorkers and stuck to it even though he bowled three or four wides. Eventually, he got a wicket," he said.

The ex-tweaker also believes that in recent years, overseas players have started learning from Indian cricketers rather than the other way around.

"Players like Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan express themselves fearlessly. Unlike other teams, India was hitting 250 totals comfortably. Abhishek's attitude tells you all about the IPL generation — these guys don't fear anything. They just come and attack. If you've played in front of thousands in the IPL, a similar crowd in an international game doesn't intimidate you," Bahutule said.

Echoing the views, former India batsman Pravin Amre, assistant coach at Delhi Capitals from 2015-24, said the league plays a huge role in shaping players' temperament.

"The IPL gives players a platform where they don't feel like they are playing in a World Cup. It helps create the 'character' of players because the pressure of winning every game is massive," Amre said.

Praising the league further, Amre added, "The IPL helps build champion players. Apart from that one loss to South Africa by 76 runs, the way we were playing, other teams were nowhere close to us. The IPL has contributed to that kind of dominance."

Two long-time officials of IPL franchises also told TOI that the league's vast talent pool continues to fuel Indian cricket's success.

"The IPL has become the funnel of talent. It's probably the biggest cricket talent pool any country could dream of. Youngsters get opportunities to compete against top internationals, which prepares them to wear the national colours without fear," said Satish Menon, CEO of Punjab Kings.

"The world knows that Indian cricket's success in white-ball cricket comes from the IPL. The ability to absorb pressure and thrive in intense situations comes from it. The IPL has changed the dynamics of T20 cricket," said Gujarat Titans COO Arvinder Singh.

"When the IPL started in 2008, 160 was a winning score. Then it moved to around 175. Even that looked difficult to chase then. Anything above eight runs an over seemed out of reach, and 10 an over meant the match was almost lost," Singh said.

"Now, even if you're chasing 225, bringing it down to 60 off the last four overs is considered doable. The players, pitches and stadiums are the same — it's the mindset that has changed."

Linking it to India's World Cup success, Singh said, "All these players know they've done it many times in the IPL, which is why the Indian team doesn't buckle under scoreboard pressure. There's so much competition in the IPL — 74 matches, 10 teams and top players. Sometimes an IPL team's bowling attack is stronger than an international side's. Because of the IPL, India is ahead of the curve," he stressed.

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SRH face backlash for signing Abrar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Sunrisers Leeds were at the receiving end of a severe social media backlash after the Hundred franchise signed Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed on Thursday.

The @SunrisersLeeds account on X was suspended overnight. It was up again on Friday with a fresh follower base, but comments focused heavily on Abrar's signing.

ABRAR AHMED

The team's Instagram feed was also caught in the storm and the backlash spilled over onto the Sunrisers Hyderabad accounts.

#Boycott#Sunrisers and #ShameOnSRH were trending on X, while SRH CEO Kavya Maran also copped a lot of flak. Social media was flooded with messages urging fans to boycott SRH in IPL.

The SRH management, still in London, could not be reached for a comment.

Meanwhile, BCCI vice president Rajeev Shukla brushed aside the controversy. "Our domain is limited to IPL, we are not concerned by what is happening in other leagues. It is clearly up to the franchise that has bought a team outside India if they are taking some player somewhere outside India," he said.

Sunrisers are owned by the Sun group media conglomerate that also owns IPL outfit Sunrisers Hyderabad. SRH completed the acquisition of the franchise, which was previously known as Northern Superchagers, by buying 49% of stakes from ECB and the rest from Yorkshire. Four franchises — MI London, Manchester Super Giants, Sunrisers Leeds and Southern Brave — are at least part-owned by companies that control IPL teams.

The Leeds-based Sunrisers clinched a deal for the Pakistani leg-spinner for £190,000 (Rs 2.3 crore). Usman Tariq was the only other Pakistani player bought in the auction by Birmingham Phoenix.

MUZARABANI JOINS KKR

Kolkata: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have signed Zimbabwe pacer **Blessing Muzarabani** for the upcoming Indian Premier League season, the team management announced on Friday. KKR were looking for a replacement for Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman, whom they had to drop on BCCI's advice. KKR had faced a political backlash over picking Rahman.

Following Rahman's exit from the IPL, Bangladesh had pulled out of the T20 World Cup, citing security concerns in India. Incidentally, Muzarabani had an excellent T20 World Cup picking up 13 wickets in six matches. The 29-year-old pulled out of Pakistan Super League (PSL), scheduled to start on March 26, once he had an IPL deal in hand. Muzarabani, standing six-foot-eight-inches, has 106 T20 International wickets to his name from 89 matches with a best of four for 17 against Australia during the T20 World Cup. TNN

GALLERY

Agha run out in bizarre fashion as Pakistan win

Pakistan batter Salman Ali Agha was involved in a rare and controversial dismissal during the second ODI against Bangladesh in Dhaka on Friday. In the 39th over, bowled by Bangladesh captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Rizwan played a gentle push down the ground. The ball rolled towards Agha, who was standing outside his crease at the non-striker's end. As the ball made contact with his pads, Agha bent down and picked it up before handing it back. Miraz quickly collected the ball and broke the stumps with Agha still outside the crease, appealing for a run-out. The on-field umpire upheld the appeal and referred the decision upstairs. The third umpire also ruled in Bangladesh's favour. Pakistan won by 110 runs under the DLS method. **Brief scores: Pak: 274 all out in 47.3 overs** (Farhan 31, Sadaqat 75, Rizwan 44, Agha 64; Hossain 3-56) bt **B'desh: 114 all out in 23.3 overs** (Das 41, Hridoy 28; Afridi 2-22, Rauf 3-26, Sadaqat 3-23) via DLS.

Lavanya triumphs: Amateur Lavanya Gupta carded a total of 1-over 217 to win the fifth leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour in Gurugram on Friday. On the final day, Lavanya carded 2-over 74. It helped her win by five shots over Durga Nittur (75-70-77) and Jasmine Shekar (70-74-78), who were tied second at 6-over 222.

Diksha, Vani, Avani make cut: Diksha Dagar, Vani Kapoor and Avani Prashanth made the cut at the Women's Australian Open, while two other Indians, Hitaashee Bakshi and Pranavi Urs missed the cut in Adelaide on Friday. Diksha shot 2-over 74 and was now 2-over for two rounds. Vani was also 2-over and the duo was tied-31st. Avani was tied-60th.

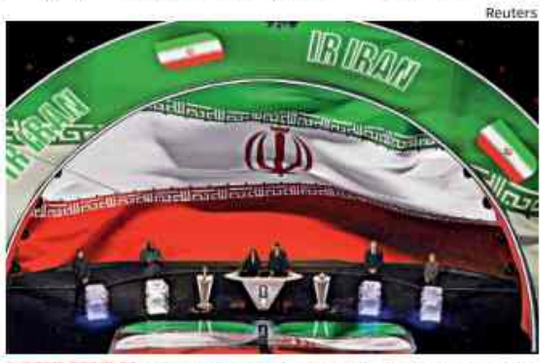
India assured of five medals: Five Indian boxers assured themselves of podium finishes at the World Boxing Futures Cup after a series of impressive quarterfinals wins in Bangkok on Friday. Gunjan (48kg), Joyshree Devi (54kg), Ambekar Meetei (50kg), Chandrika Pujari (51kg) and Radhamani Longjam (57kg) advanced to the semifinals.

ACTION TODAY

F1: Chinese GP, Qualifying, 12.30 pm (Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** ISL, East Bengal vs Kerala Blasters, 5 pm; Bengaluru FC vs Mohun Bagan, 7.30 pm (Sony, Fancode); EPL, 8.30 pm, 11 pm & 1.30 am Sunday (JioHotstar); La Liga, 6.30 pm, 8.45 pm & 11 pm (Fancode); **HOCKEY:** Women's WC Qualifiers, 7.30 pm (JioHotstar); **GOLF:** Players Championship, 5.30 pm (Fancode)

NO ONE CAN EXCLUDE US FROM WORLD CUP: IRAN

Reuters



DRAW REVEAL: NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal holds up Iran's name during the draw for the 2026 World Cup in Washington

Paris: Pushing back on US president Donald Trump's comments, Iran's national soccer team said "no one can exclude" it from playing in the men's FIFA World Cup in United States.

Instead, a post on the team's official Instagram account suggested maybe the US team should be excluded after Trump indicated that the host country couldn't guarantee the safety of the Iranian players.

Trump wrote in a social media post Thursday that the Iranian team was welcome at the World Cup despite the ongoing war with Iran but that "I really don't believe it is appropriate that they be there, for their own life and safety."

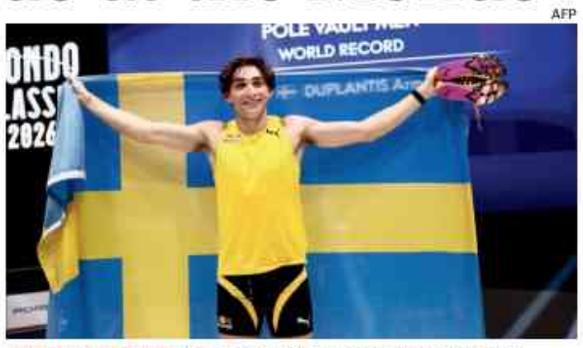
Iran is set to play all three of its World Cup group games in the US, which is co-hosting the tournament with Mexico and Canada. The regional war has put doubt on Iran's ability to fulfil its World Cup entry, and sports minister Ahmad Donyamali told state TV this week the current circumstances meant it was not possible to play. But the Iran team's riposte on Instagram confirmed it still wants to participate, and pointed out that the tournament is run by FIFA — not Trump or the US. "The World Cup is a historic and international event and its governing body is FIFA — not any individual, country," the post said.

"Certainly, no one can exclude Iran's national team from the World Cup; the only country that could be excluded is one that merely carries the title of 'host' yet lacks the ability to provide security for the teams participating in this global event." Iran is scheduled to play in Inglewood, California, against New Zealand on June 15 and Belgium on June 21, before finishing group play in Seattle against Egypt on June 26.

Trump's mixed messages on the subject include saying last week "I really don't care" if Iran plays, then assuring FIFA president Gianni Infantino at the White House that Iran's team was welcome. Iran is a power in Asian soccer, ranked No. 20 in the world by FIFA and has qualified for its fourth straight WC edition. AGENCIES

At 6.31m, it's record No. 15 by Mondo at the Mondo

AFP



BUILDING LEGACY: Armand Duplantis celebrates after his vault, setting a new world record during the Mondo Classic

Uppsala (Sweden): Armand Duplantis broke the pole vault world record on Thursday for the 15th time at the meet that bears his name in Uppsala, Sweden, clearing 6.31 metres on his first attempt. The 26-year-old Swede broke the record he has owned since clearing 6.17m in 2020. Duplantis only took four vaults at the indoor event in his adopted home town. After clearing 5.65m, 5.90m and then 6.08m, all on his first attempts, he asked for the bar to be lifted 23cm to a world-record height.

He immediately soared over to end his evening's work. It was the second time Duplantis has broken the world record in Sweden. He cleared 6.28m in Stockholm last June, one of four world-record leaps in 2025. "This is my home," Duplantis told the crowd. "This is our home. That's how it is. And you know that every time I'm on the track, I represent you. And I do it with great pride."

"I am so proud to have been able to do this in front of you. I jump for myself, I jump for my family, but I also jump for you, for Sweden, and for everyone who supports me," he said. "If someone comes to Sweden to challenge me, they will find it even harder to beat me. I am very emotional right now. There was extra pressure because I wanted to achieve something different. Breaking the world record here is truly incredible," he then told Swedish broadcaster SVT.

Duplantis said he lengthened his run-up to control a stiffer pole. "I tried to do something new and push myself to the limit. It's a really great feeling," he said. Norway's Sondre Guttormsen was second with a leap of 6.00m. AGENCIES

WATKINS STRIKE SEALS VILLA WIN

London: Nottingham Forest suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Midtjylland in the Europa League last-16 first leg, while Ollie Watkins ended his goal drought as the Aston Villa striker sealed a 1-0 win at Lille on Thursday. Vitor Pereira's side were rocked by Cho Gue-sung's late strike at the City Ground as Forest succumbed to the Danish underdogs for the second time this season.

Beaten 3-2 at home by Midtjylland in the group stage in October when Ange Postecoglou was the second of Forest's four managers this term, the Premier League strugglers must secure the first away win against the Danes this season in the second leg on March 19 to have a chance of advancing.

Meanwhile, Brazilian striker Endrick salvaged a 1-1 draw for Lyon at 10-man Celta Vigo.

Portuguese league leaders Porto won 2-1 at Stuttgart and Genk beat Freiburg 1-0 in Belgium. AFP

India down Italy, run into England in final

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Hyderabad: India got the better of Italy 1-0 in the semifinals of the FIH Women's World Cup Qualifers at the Gachibowli stadium here on Friday.

WOMEN'S WC QUALIFIERS

In the final, India face England, who beat Scotland 2-0 in the other last-four clash.

Drag-flick specialist Navneet Kaur was off-colour, Manisha Chauhan converted the fourth much to the delight of the full house. While India struggled to build a decent attack in the first quarter, Italy threatened to score twice with Lola Brea breaking into the circle. But she was not able to breach the Indian defence.

India stepped up the attack in the second quarter as Navneet combined well with skipper Salima Tete and Lalremsiami. India got the first penalty corner due to the good work of Navneet in the 18th minute. Ten minutes later, Salima was pushed near the circle, leading to the second penalty for India. Udita took the penalty corner as Navneet was off the field. Indians cleverly planned the attack. Udita pushed it to Salima, but her shot was deflected by Italian custodian Caruso Lucia.

INDIA FINISH STRONG AT PARA ATHLETICS GP

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New Delhi: India's Shilpa K produced a throw of 20.68 m to clinch the women's F57 discus title, edging compatriot Sadika Mir, who managed 20.16 m on the final day of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday. Jyoti finished third with 15.04m to complete an all-India podium. On the track, Vinay dominated the men's T35 200m race, clocking 28.18 seconds to take the top spot ahead of Anubhav Choudhary (29.49s). Hong Kong's Chui Yu Bao came third in 30.98s, while Kuldeep Dubey finished fourth.

In the men's 800m T53/T54 event, Manojkumar Sabapathi delivered an impressive run to win in 1:57.41. Jaspreet Kaur Sran took top honours in the women's F52 discus with a throw of 6.02 m.

India finished with a total of 208 medals comprising 75 gold, 69 silver and 64 bronze.

Alcaraz sets up Medvedev semi; Sabalenka and Rybakina advance

Indian Wells: World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz charged past Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-4 on Thursday to set up an Indian Wells semifinal with Daniil Medvedev after the Russian ended Jack Draper's title defence with a 6-1, 7-5 win following a controversial umpiring call.

INDIAN WELLS

Top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka also reached the last four in the women's draw with a 7-6(0), 6-4 victory over 19-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko but Iga Swiatek was unable to find her way past Elina Svitolina and fell 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Australian Open champion Alcaraz improved his record to 16-0 to start the year with a solid display against a tricky opponent in the final contest of the evening to remain on course for a third Indian Wells crown.

Reuters

SABALENKA

The Spaniard eased through the opening set and though he was briefly in trouble at 0-2 down in the second he quickly regained the momentum to see off Briton Norrie and set up a meeting with twice runner-up Medvedev.

Fourth seed Alexander Zverev beat Frenchman Arthur Fils 6-2, 6-3 to make the semi-finals for the first time and become only the fifth man to complete the set of last-four appearances at all nine ATP Masters 1000 events.

The German faces a big challenge in the next round, however, as he takes on World No. 2 Jannik Sinner after the Italian made light work of American Learner Tien 6-1, 6-2. Sabalenka next plays Linda Noskova, who ended Australian qualifier Talia Gibson's fairytale run 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, the Czech reaching her second WTA 1000 semifinal. Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina advanced with a 6-1, 7-6(4) victory over Jessica Pegula to reach another Indian Wells semifinal where she will play Svitolina. REUTERS

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